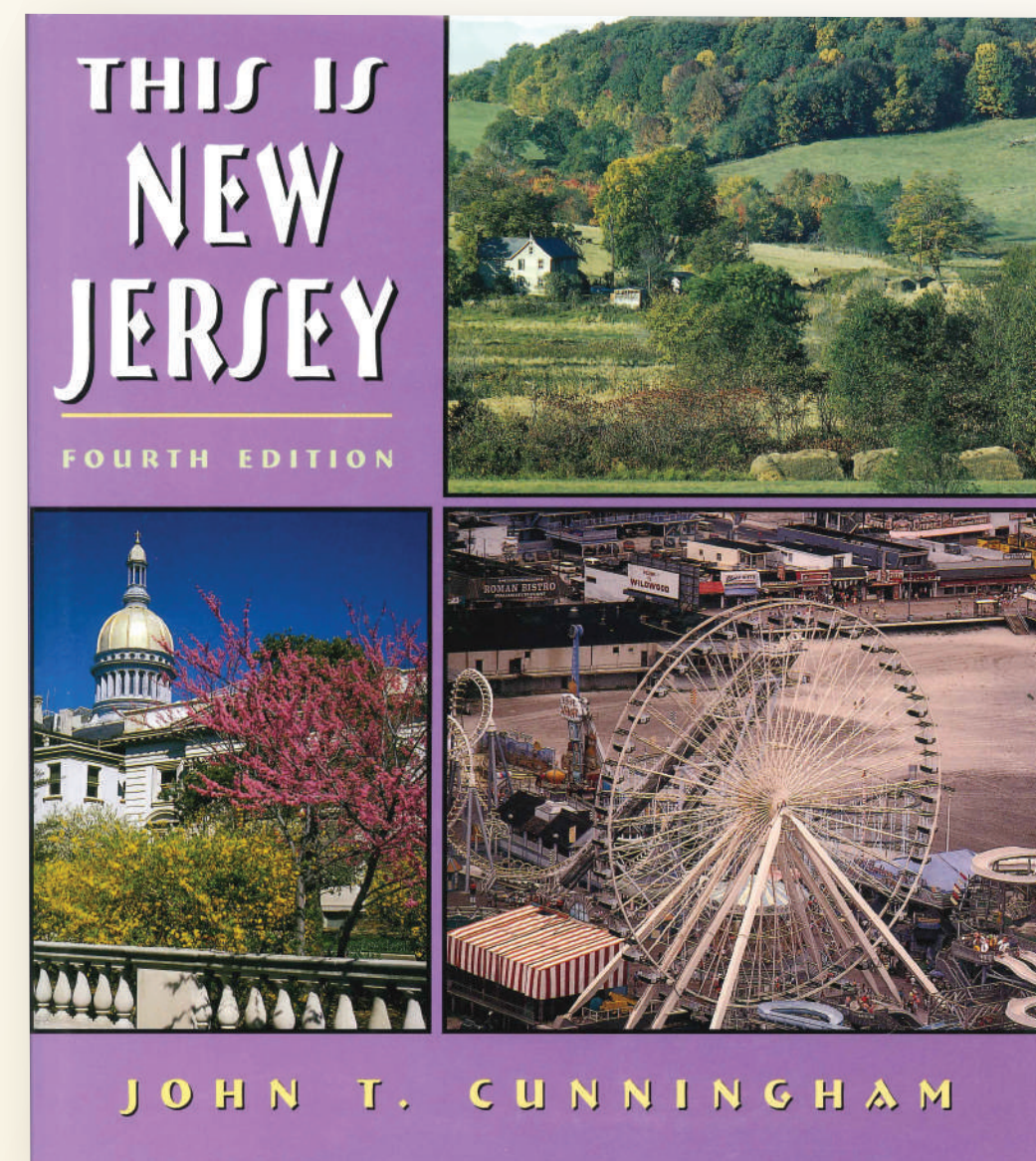


# This is New Jersey

## 350 YEARS

### OF GARDEN STATE HISTORY



#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## INTRODUCTION

In 2014, New Jersey celebrates its 350th anniversary. It was in 1664 that the Duke of York acquired this land located between the Delaware River and the Atlantic Ocean, and named it after the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel.

Of course, the English were not the first people here. Dutch and Swedish colonists had settled the area during the first half of the seventeenth century, and Native Americans had lived here for centuries. However, English colonial traditions were the ones that lasted into the next century.

With *This is New Jersey*, the Newark Public Library commemorates this important anniversary. We also honor the memory of John T. Cunningham, a

historian who dedicated his life to writing about the history of New Jersey and a true friend in so many ways to the Newark Public Library.

Cunningham died in 2012 at the age of 96. His first book about New Jersey was published in 1953, and many more followed. After his death, Cunningham's family generously donated his papers to the Newark Public Library. These materials are now housed in the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center.

John T. Cunningham called himself “the guy who wrote the easy-to-read books.” Rutgers professor Clement Price noted he was “one of the civic giants of New Jersey public life,” a

writer who wrote for schoolchildren and casual readers, not academic historians. Through his books and also the fourth-grade curriculum he devised, numerous New Jerseyans learned about the history of the Garden State.

Interspersed throughout this exhibit are quotes from Cunningham's books. Each one is used to illustrate a different era of the state's history. More information about Cunningham can be found at the end of the exhibit.

*This is New Jersey* is arranged chronologically. The images used are from the collection of the Newark Public Library's Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, unless otherwise noted.

TOM ANKNER  
CURATOR  
LIBRARIAN, CHARLES F. CUMMINGS  
NEW JERSEY INFORMATION CENTER

NEW JERSEY  
*Historical*  
COMMISSION

The Newark Public Library receives  
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newjersey350  
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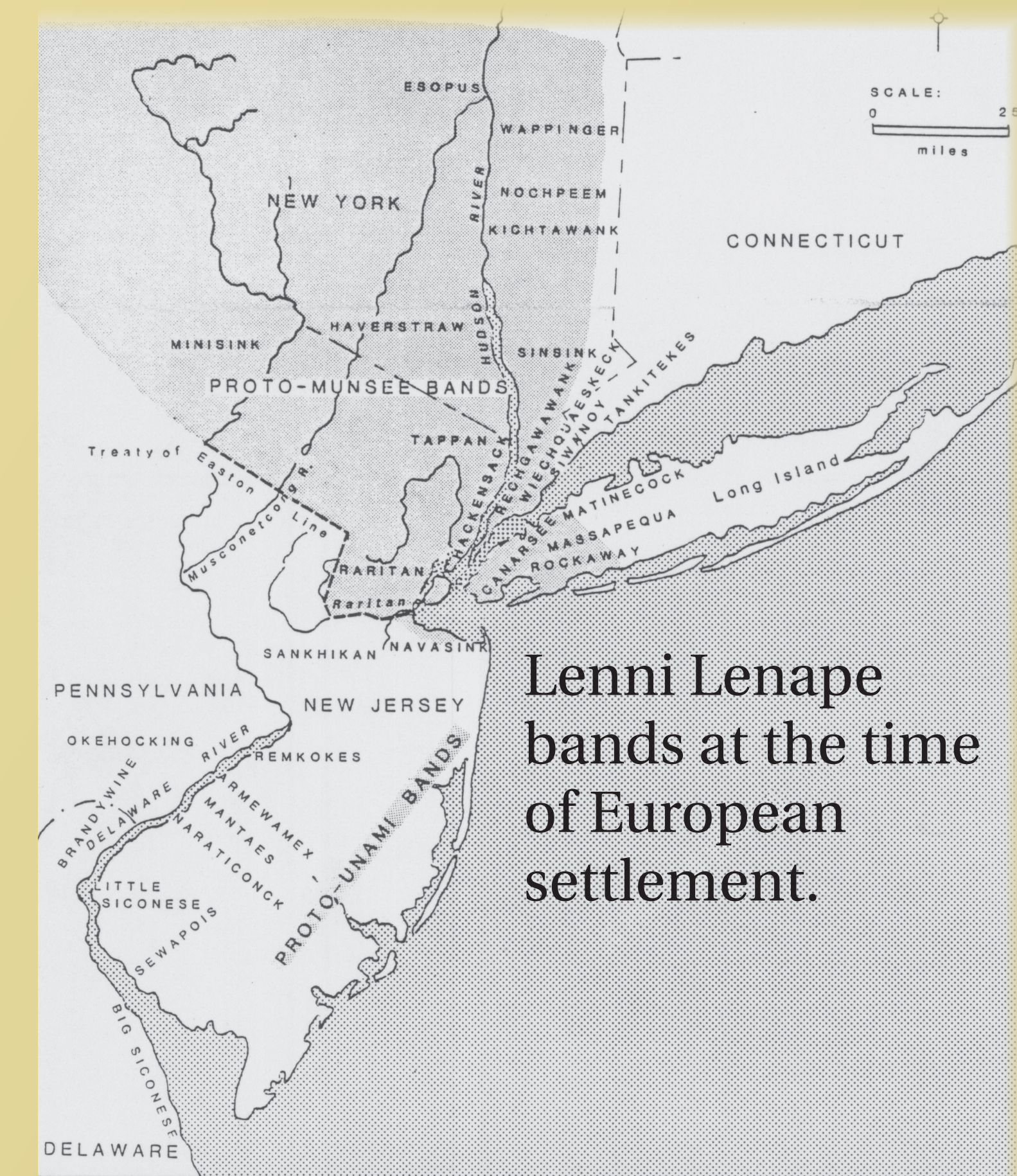




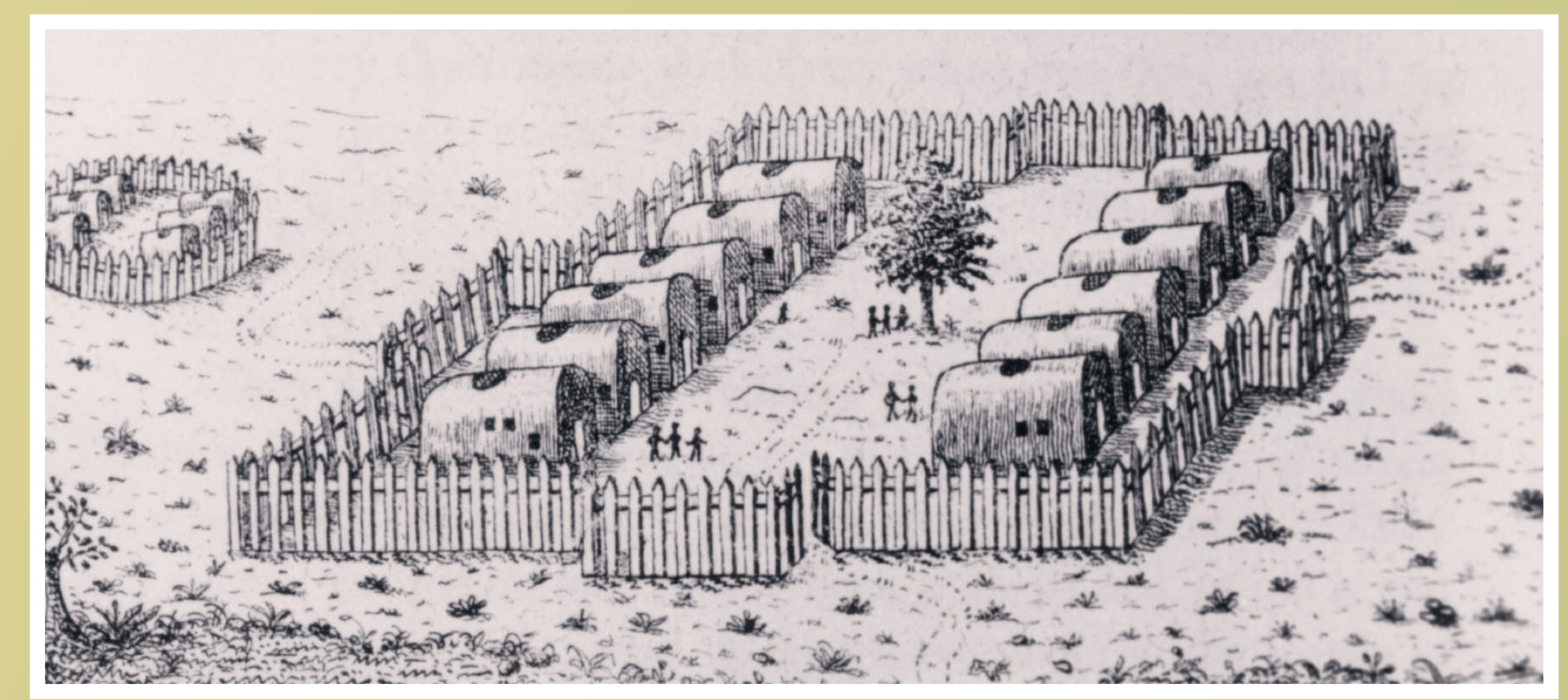
# NATIVE AMERICANS

The Lenni Lenape had been here for 10,000 years or more by the time the first Europeans set foot on the New World. The Indians had traveled far. They left their native land—in what is now Siberia—and walked, through many centuries and countless generations, halfway around the world to settle what is now New Jersey.

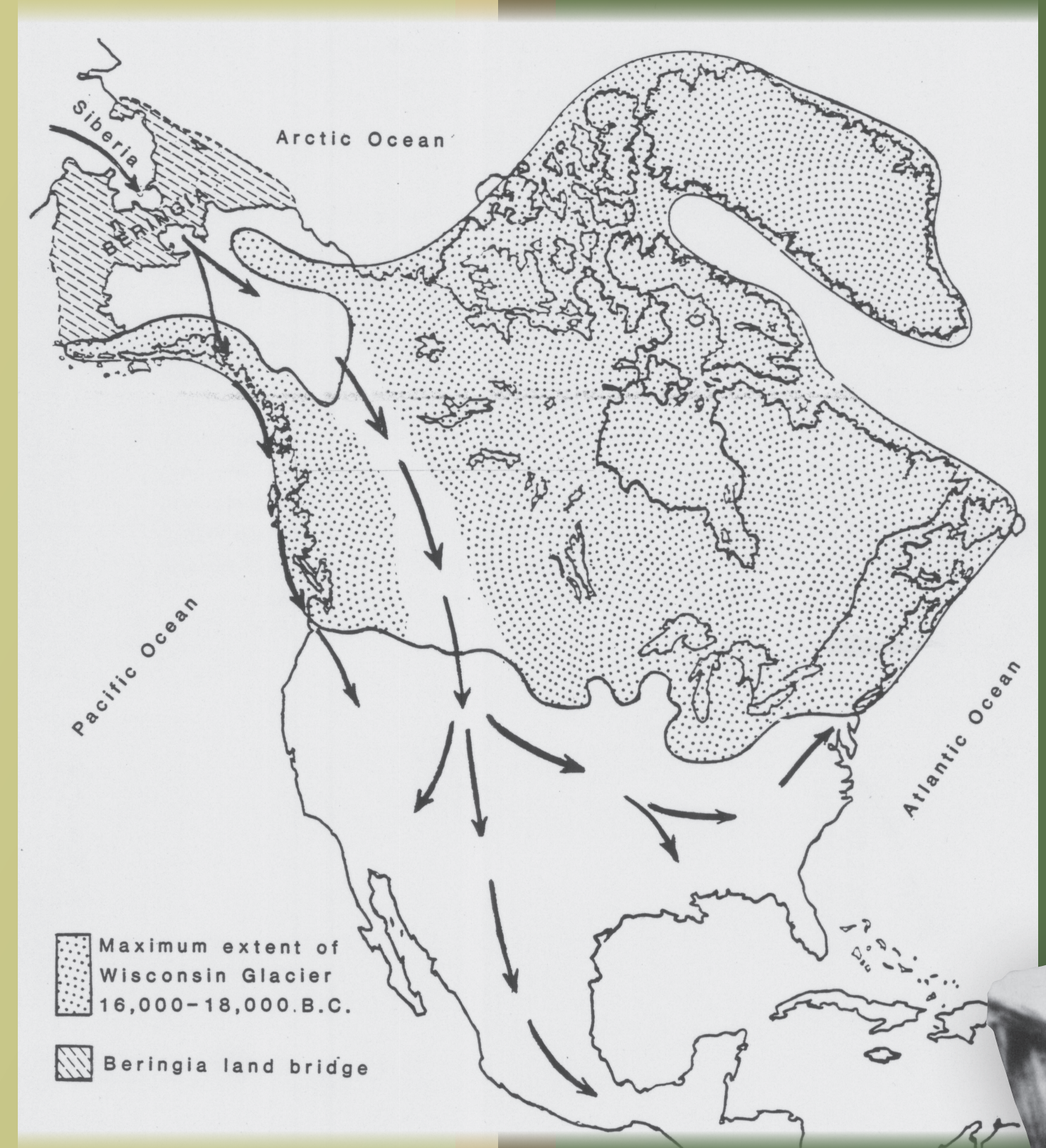
CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *NEW JERSEY: A MIRROR ON AMERICA*, AFTON PUBLISHING, FLORHAM PARK, N.J.: 1978.



Mural representing the Treaty of Easton from 1758 between the Lenni Lenape and Anglo-American colonists.



Typical Native American fort in the 17th century.



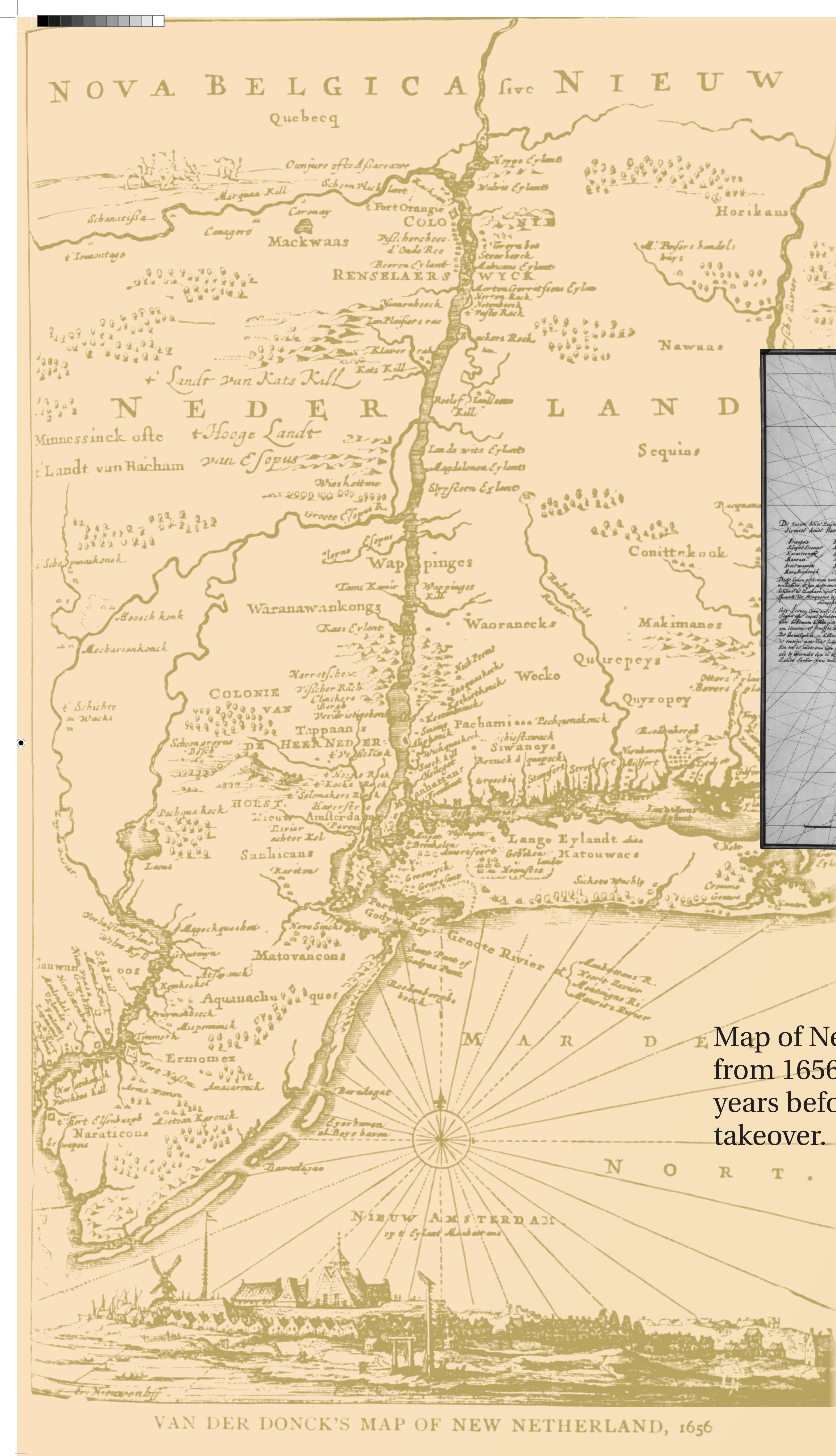
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Map showing how Native Americans came to North America from Asia.



Oraton, chief of the Hackensack tribe in the 17th century. Much of northeastern New Jersey was purchased from him by the Europeans.





# THE DUTCH AND SWEDES

Several dozen Dutch families lived on the west bank of the Hudson by 1640....These Hollanders were solid families, intent on cultivating the soil and creating homes.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *COLONIAL NEW JERSEY*. CAMDEN: THOMAS NELSON INC., 1971.

New Sweden had begun officially in mid-March, 1638, when two ships, the Kalmar Nyckel and the Vogel Grip, limped into Delaware Bay after a fierce Atlantic crossing that had taken more than ten weeks.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *COLONIAL NEW JERSEY*. CAMDEN: THOMAS NELSON INC., 1971.

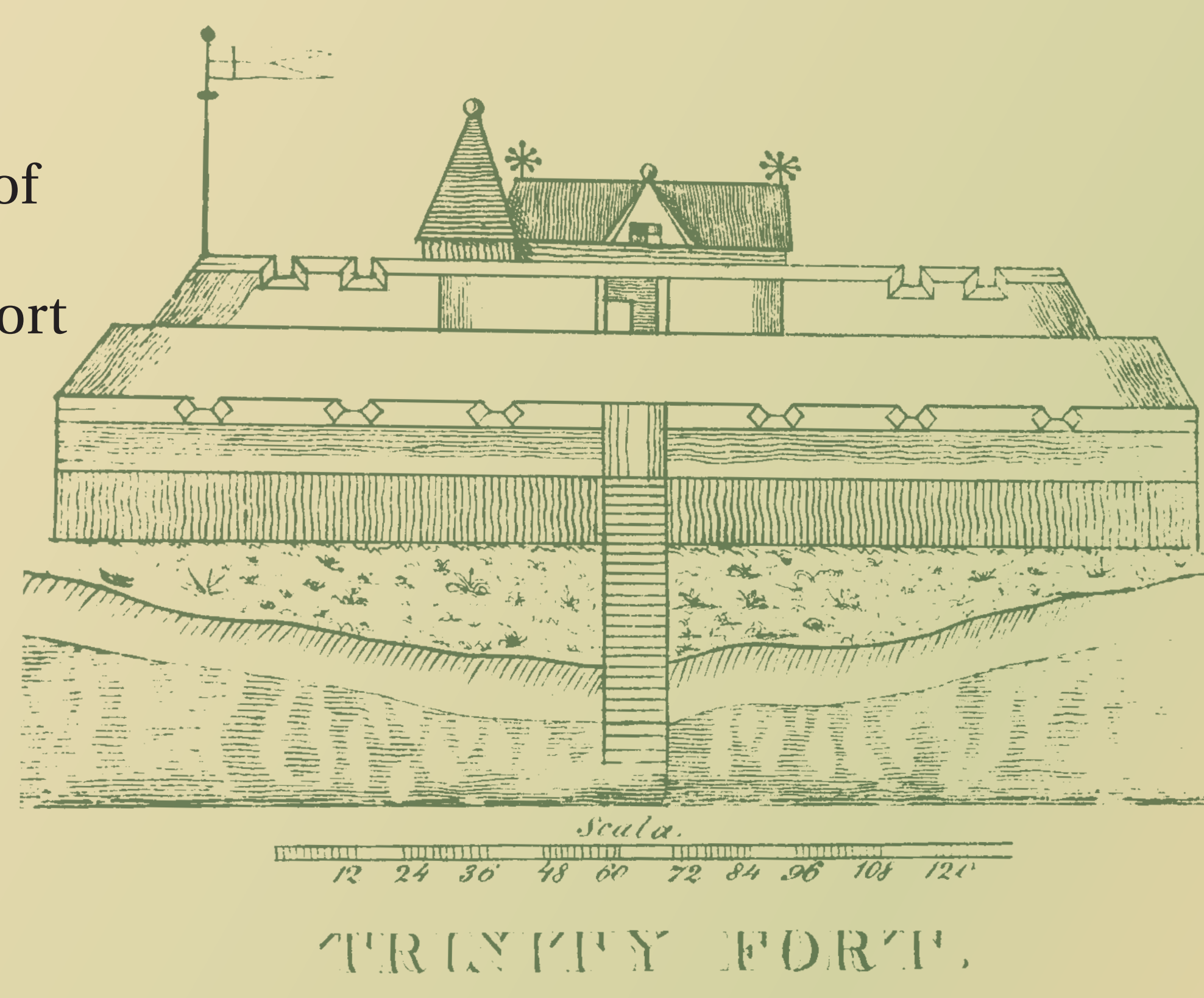


Early Dutch map of the southern Delaware River from 1639.



The "Half Moon" was the ship Henry Hudson sailed for the Dutch in 1609, giving them claim to land on both sides of the river later named for him.

Diagram of an early Swedish fort captured from the Dutch.



Typical Dutch colonial costumes.



Typical Swedish colonial costumes.

Early landing of the Swedes at Paradise Point.



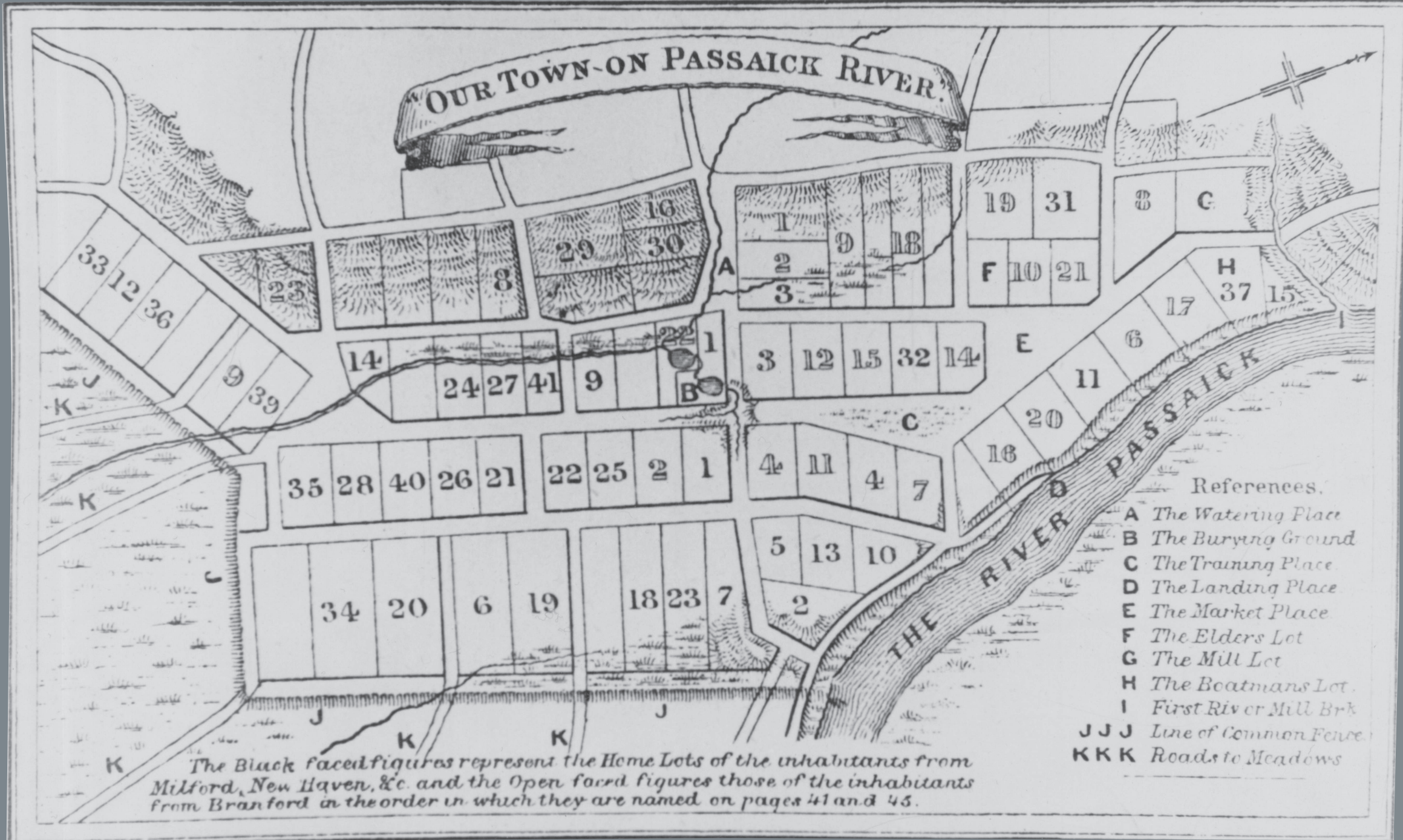
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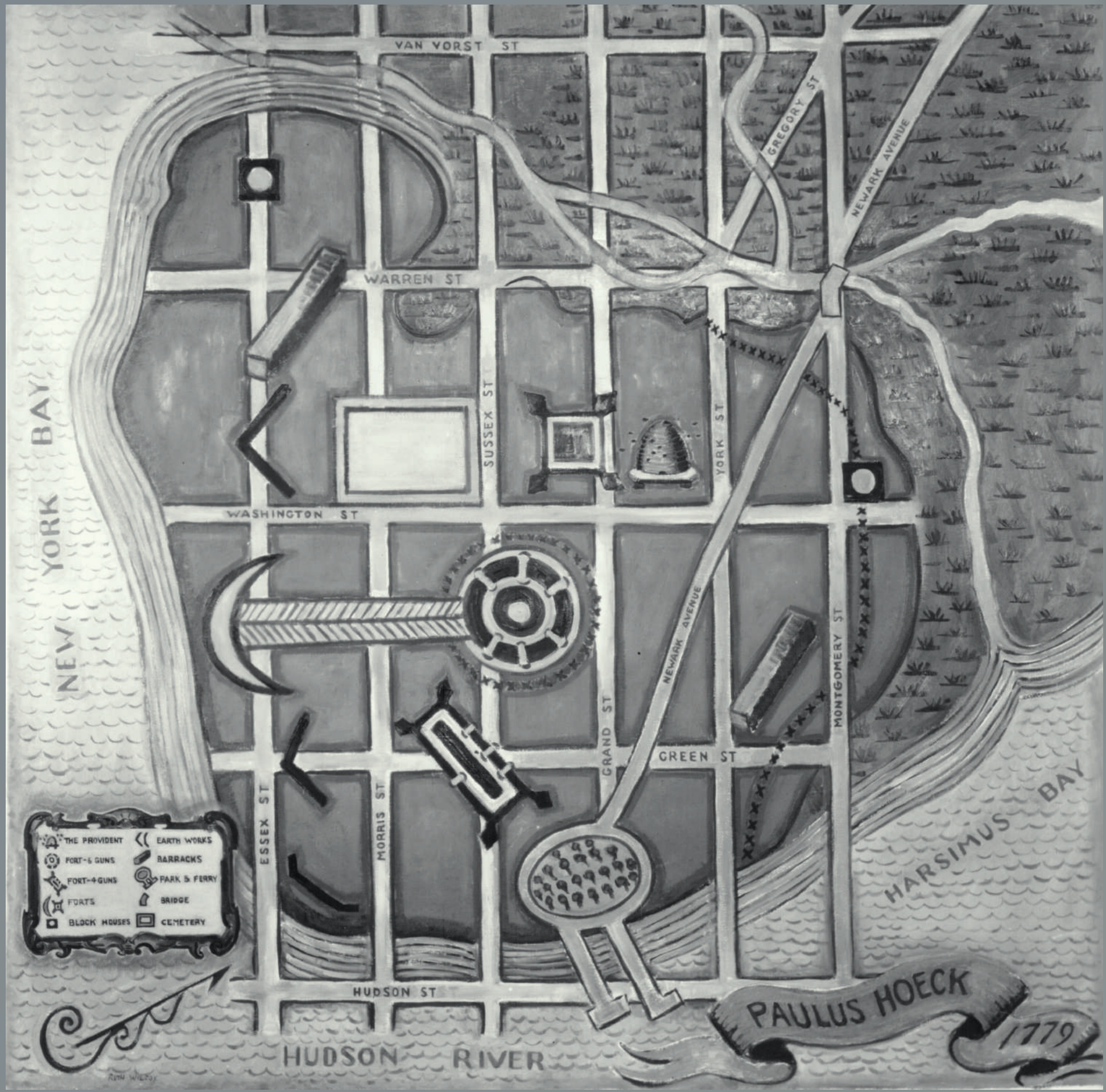
# ENGLISH COLONIAL LIFE

King Charles completely ignored Dutch claims to New Netherland when he summoned his “Dearest Brother” James, the Duke of York, on March 12, 1664, and granted him all the land between the Connecticut and Delaware rivers. “Dearest Brother” was granted the right to wrest whatever fortune he could from the land, as well as the power to govern as “he shall thinke to be fittest for the good of the Adventurers & Inhabitants there.” That included everyone—Dutch, Swedes, Indians, and anyone else who might be in the area.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *COLONIAL NEW JERSEY*. CAMDEN: THOMAS NELSON INC., 1971.



Map of Newark in the 17th century.



Map of Paulus Hook in Jersey City, 1779.

Good Order Established  
IN  
Pennsilvania & New-Jerfey  
IN  
**AMERICA,**  
Being a true Account of the Country;  
With its Produce and Commodities there made.  
And the great Improvements that may be made by  
means of **Publick Store-houses** for **Wamp,**  
**Flax** and **Linnen-Cloth**; also, the Advantages  
of a **Publick-School**, the Profits of a **Publick-**  
**Bank**, and the Probability of its arising, if those  
directions here laid down are followed. With  
the advantages of publick **Granaries**.  
Likewise, several other things needful to be under-  
stood by those that are or do intend to be con-  
cerned in planting in the said Countries.  
All which is laid down very plain, in this small  
Treatise; it being eafie to be understood by any  
ordinary Capacity. To which the *Reader* is  
referred for his further satisfaction.

By *Thomas Budd.*

Printed in the Year 1685.

Several brochures published in England in the 17th century sought to recruit settlers to New Jersey. This one from 1685 was printed by Thomas Budd.



Mural by Howard Pyle commemorating the chilly reception by Dutch colonists of Philip Carteret, the new English governor of New Jersey.



Reenactment of the scene on June 23, 1664, when New Jersey was given its name by the Duke of York, second from left.



New Jersey was divided into East and West Jersey until 1702. This is the seal of East Jersey.



Winter scene from West Jersey.

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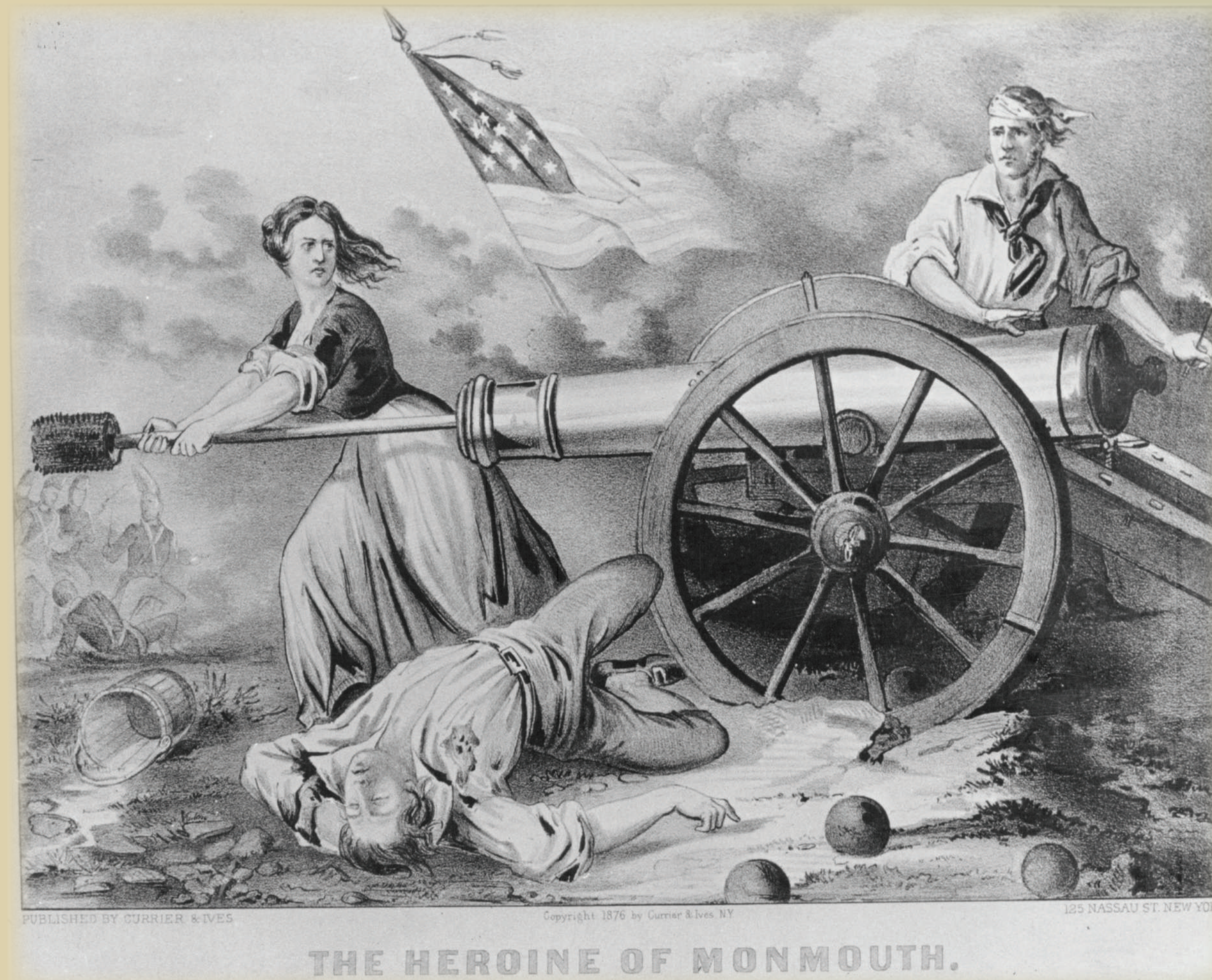


# THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Here the conflict would be won or lost, for here were New York and Philadelphia, the two most prosperous cities in the land, built on the two finest harbors on the coast. Whoever controlled both harbors would win the war.

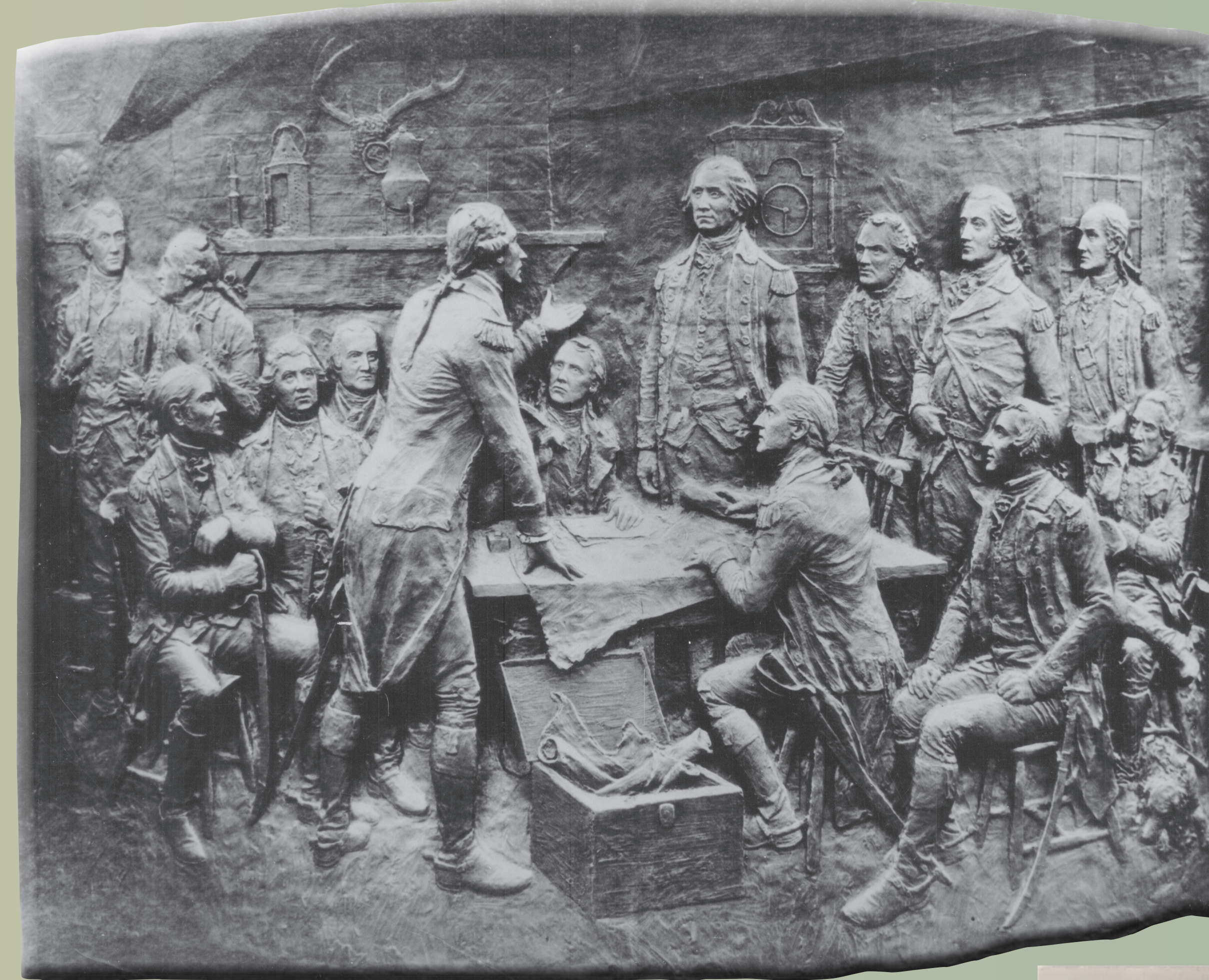
In between lay New Jersey. Obviously, whoever held this state could exert strong pressure—military, political, and economic—on both New York and Philadelphia.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *NEW JERSEY: A MIRROR ON AMERICA*, AFTON PUBLISHING, FLORHAM PARK, N.J.: 1978.



Mary Ludwig Hays, who has come to be known as Molly Pitcher, carried water to soldiers during the Battle of Monmouth in June 1778. After her husband was injured, she took his place at the cannon.

Council of War at Hopewell, a plaque on the Freehold Battle Monument. Note: George Washington is depicted in the center.



A drawing of Washington and his men marching toward Trenton.



A gathering of patriots at the Essex County courthouse in Newark in 1774.

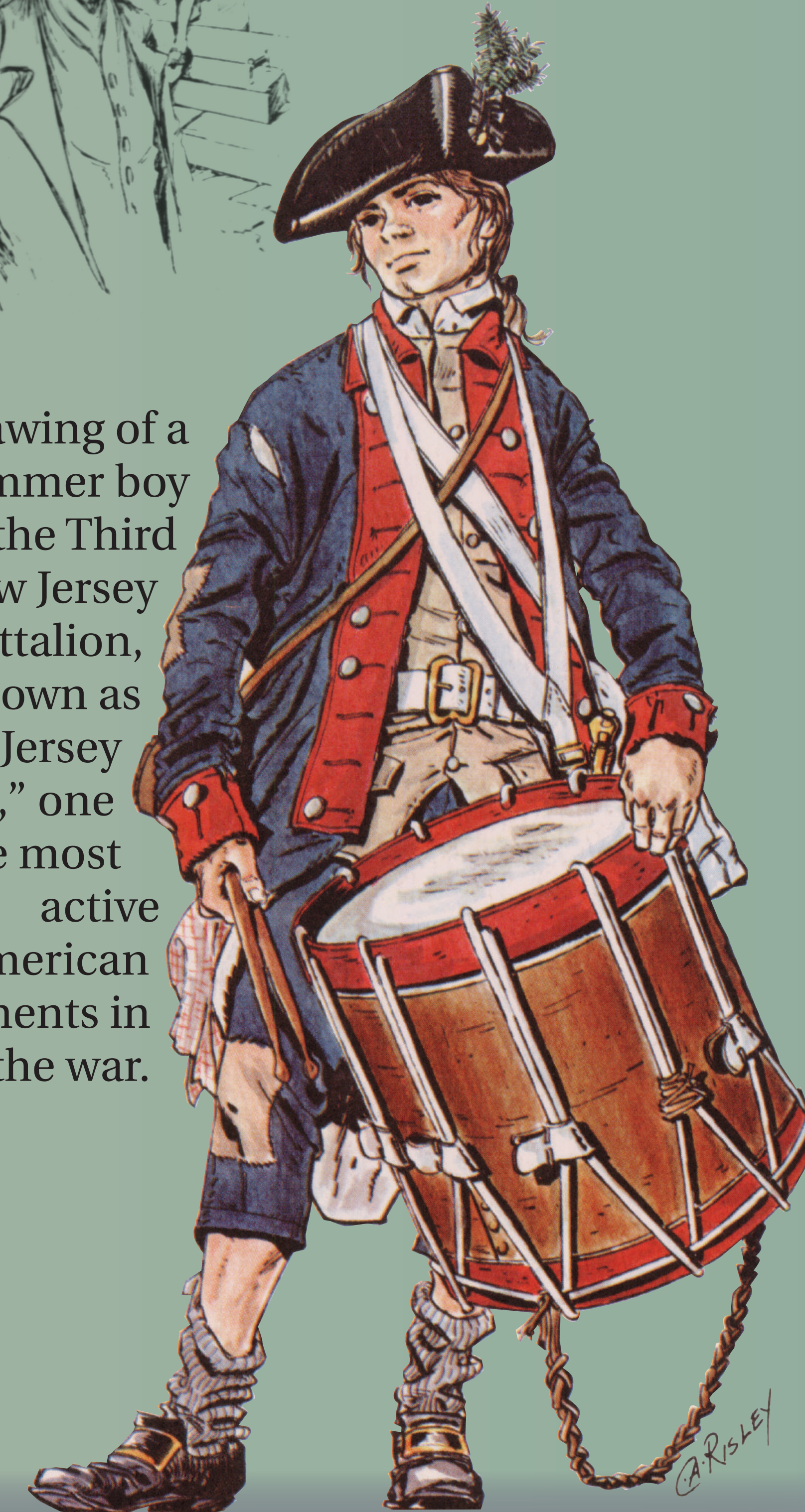
Bechtolf, O.T. *Gathering of Patriots at County Court House in 1774*, 1906. Pen and ink drawing from the Special Collections Division, Newark Public Library.

A 1926 reenactment of Washington crossing the Delaware on Christmas Day, 1776.



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Drawing of a drummer boy in the Third New Jersey Battalion, known as the "Jersey Blues," one of the most active American regiments in the war.






DOCUMENTS  
TENDING TO PROVE  
THE SUPERIOR ADVANTAGES  
OF  
RAIL-WAYS  
AND  
STEAM-CARRIAGES  
OVER  
CANAL NAVIGATION.  
  
NEW-YORK:  
PRINTED BY T. AND J. SWORDS,  
No. 160 Pearl-Street.  
1812.

# NEW NATION AND STATE

Ratification of the Constitution signified that an old era had died and that another had begun....New Jersey, mired beside its muddy cross-state roads, still without a pattern of industry or a port of its own, and still deep in the shadows of New York and Philadelphia, had to find some kind of future for itself.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *NEW JERSEY: A MIRROR ON AMERICA*, AFTON PUBLISHING, FLORHAM PARK, N.J.: 1978.

15 Dollars Reward.



15 Dollars Reward.

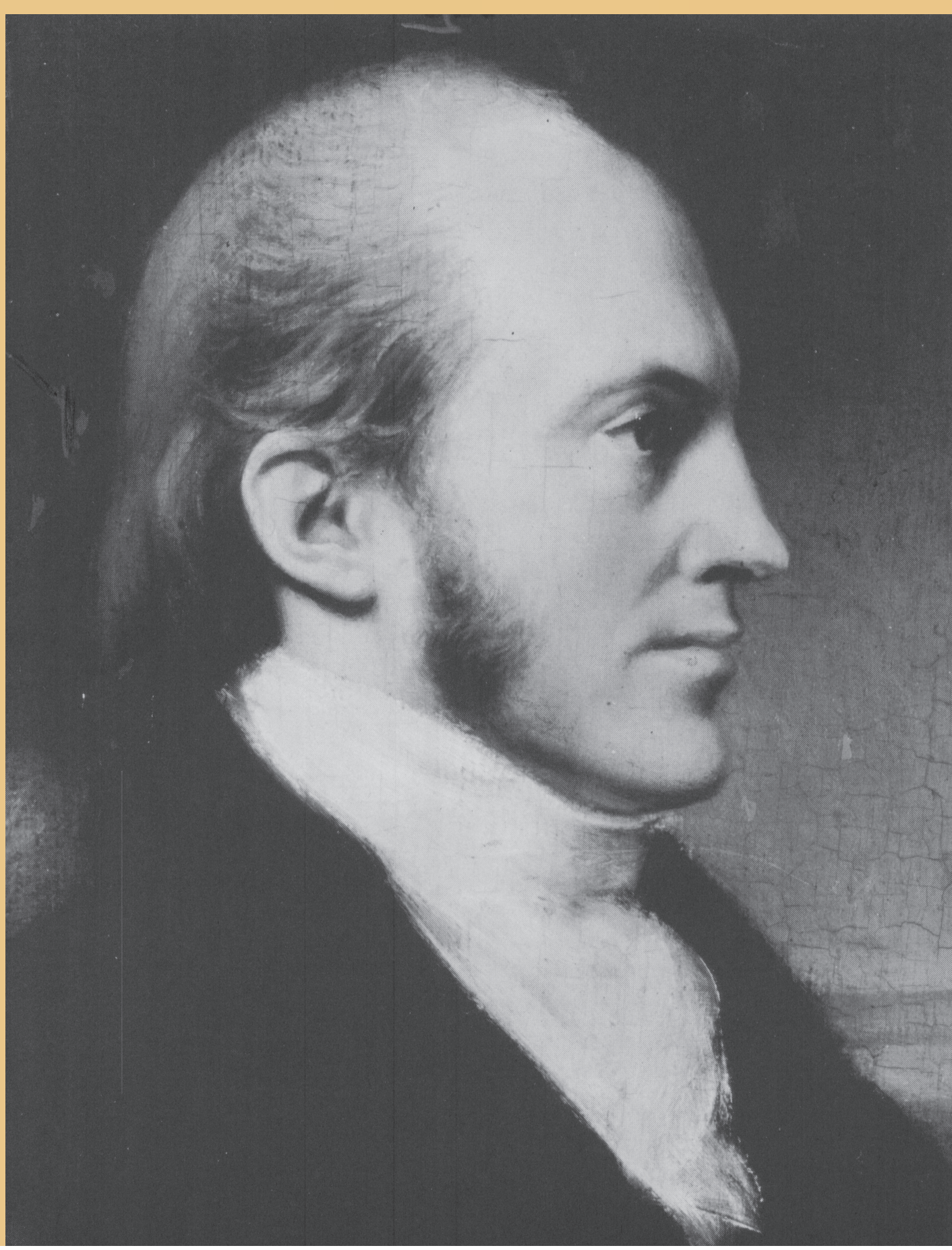
RUNAWAY from the Subscriber on the 24th of December last, a Negro man named BEN, (sometimes went by the name of Benjamin Francis,) aged 26 years; had on when he went away a brown coat, a streaked light vest, and a grey mixed pantaloons; is about five feet two inches high—talks English or Dutch, and has a scar on the face, occasioned from a horse.—The above reward will be given for the apprehension and delivery of said slave to his master, or his confinement in any Jail in New Jersey.

GARRET P. HARING,  
Preakness, Feb. 21, 1827. 5wp

A law calling for the gradual abolition of slavery in New Jersey passed in 1804, but there were still enslaved people living in the state in 1827, when the notice above ran in a Newark newspaper. New Jersey finally passed a law freeing all enslaved persons in 1846.

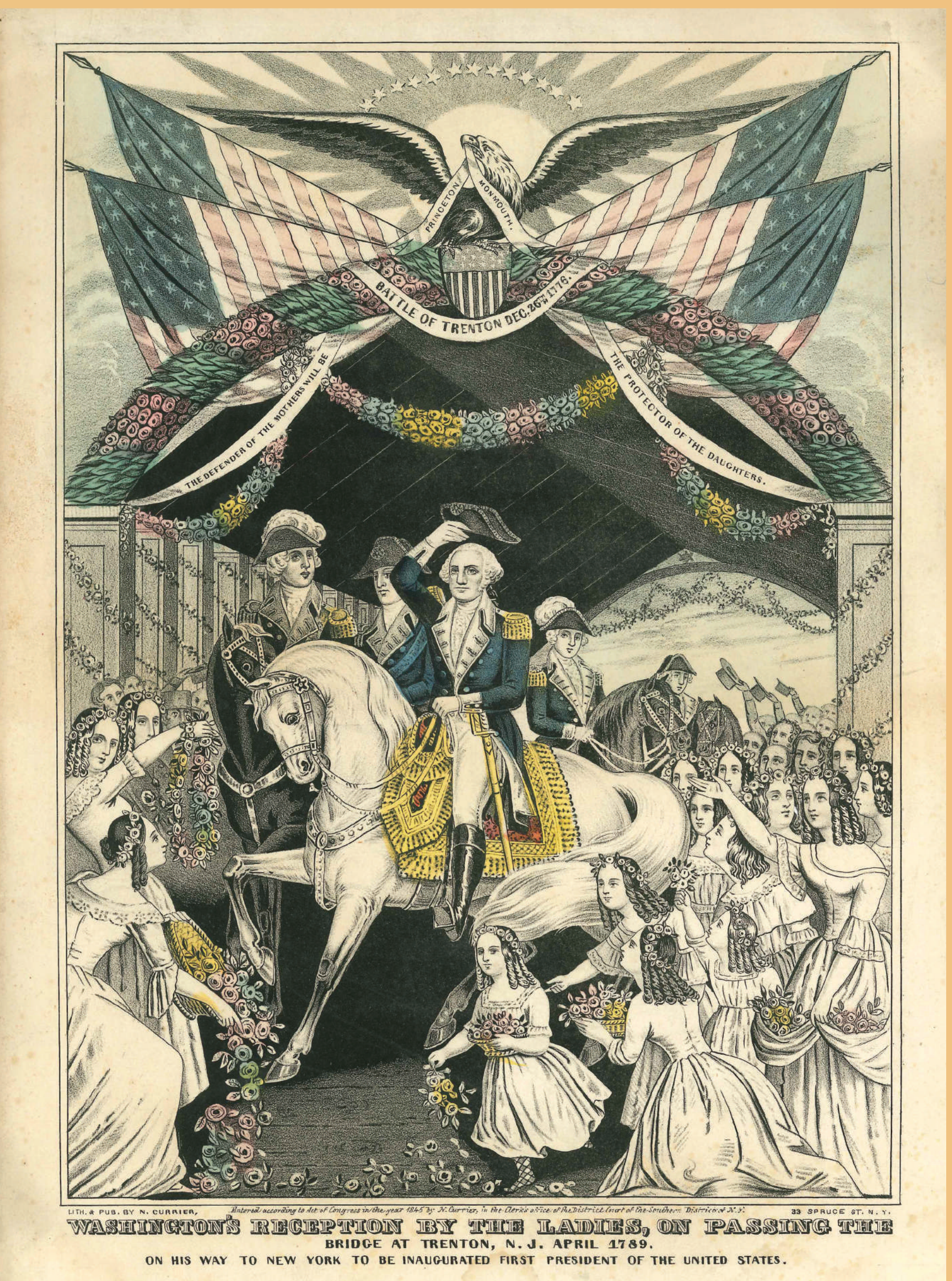
The early 19th century saw the advent of both railroads and canals. The competition between the two modes of transportation can be discerned from the title of this publication from 1812.

Aaron Burr, the nation’s third Vice President (1801-05), was born in Newark in 1756. In 1804, while serving as Vice President, he shot and killed former treasury secretary Alexander Hamilton during a duel in Weehawken.



Women voting in the first decade of the 19th century. The state constitution of 1776 did not limit voting to men, so women were able to participate in state elections. That ended in 1807, when the state legislature passed a law limiting the vote to “free, white, male” citizens.

Pyle, Howard. Women at the Polls in New Jersey in the Good Old Days. *Harper's Weekly*, November 13, 1880. Hand tinted wood engraving from the Special Collections Division, Newark Public Library.



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George Washington traveling through Trenton in 1789, on his way to being inaugurated as the nation’s first president.

Currier, N. *Washington's Reception by the Ladies, on Passing the Bridge at Trenton, N.J. April 1789*, 1845. Hand colored lithograph from the Special Collections Division, Newark Public Library.

View of Newark in 1790.

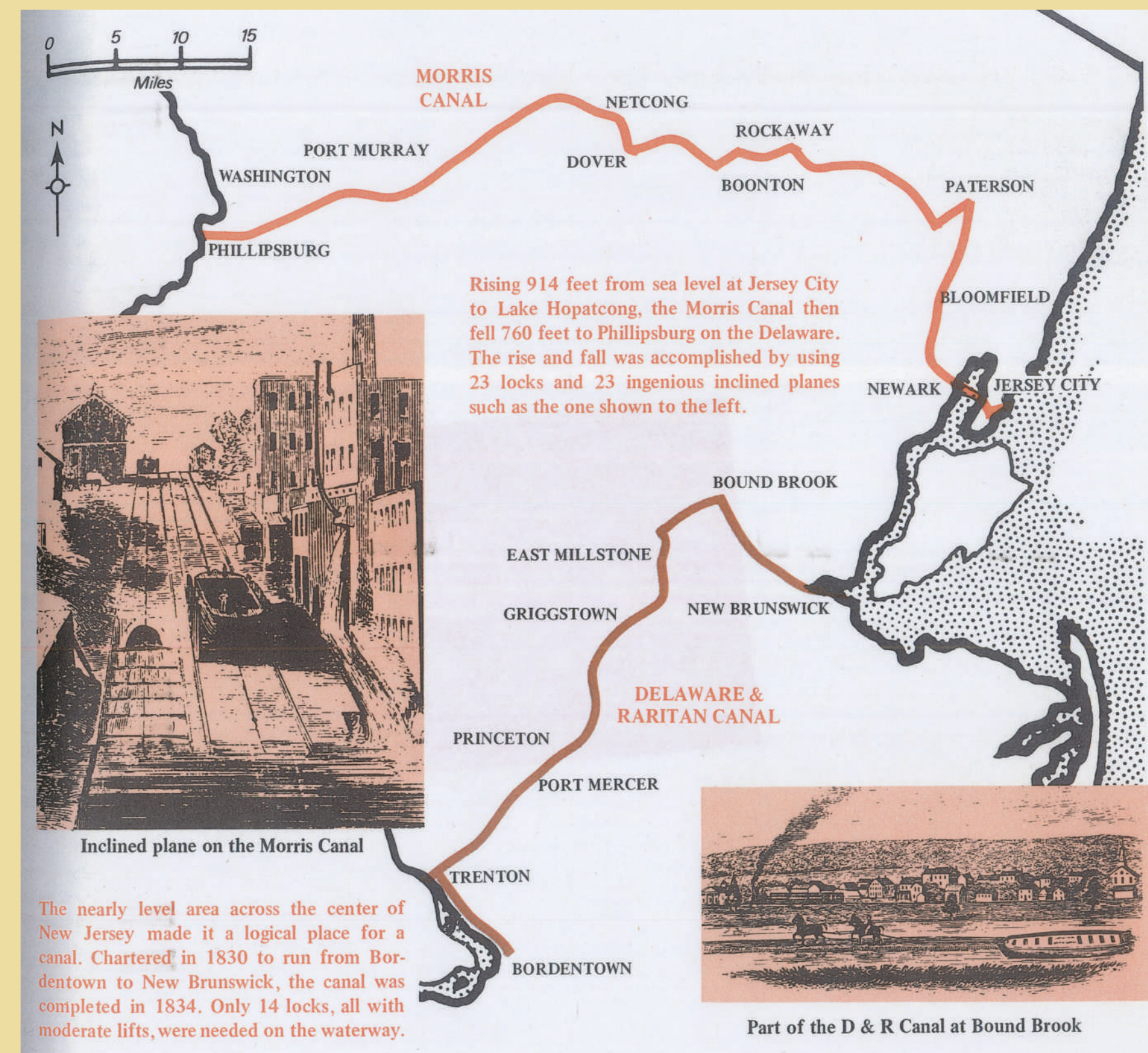




Canal barges splashing into town and trains roaring across the landscape had changed New Jersey forever by 1860.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *NEW JERSEY: A MIRROR ON AMERICA*, AFTON PUBLISHING, FLORHAM PARK, N.J.: 1978.

Canals were cutting-edge shipping technology in the 1820s and 1830s. This map shows two canals in New Jersey: the Morris Canal in northern New Jersey, and the Delaware and Raritan Canal in central New Jersey.



Canals were eventually superseded by railroads. The Camden and Amboy Rail Road was chartered in 1830 on the same day as the Delaware and Raritan Canal. Here is a portion of track laid for the Camden and Amboy circa 1832.

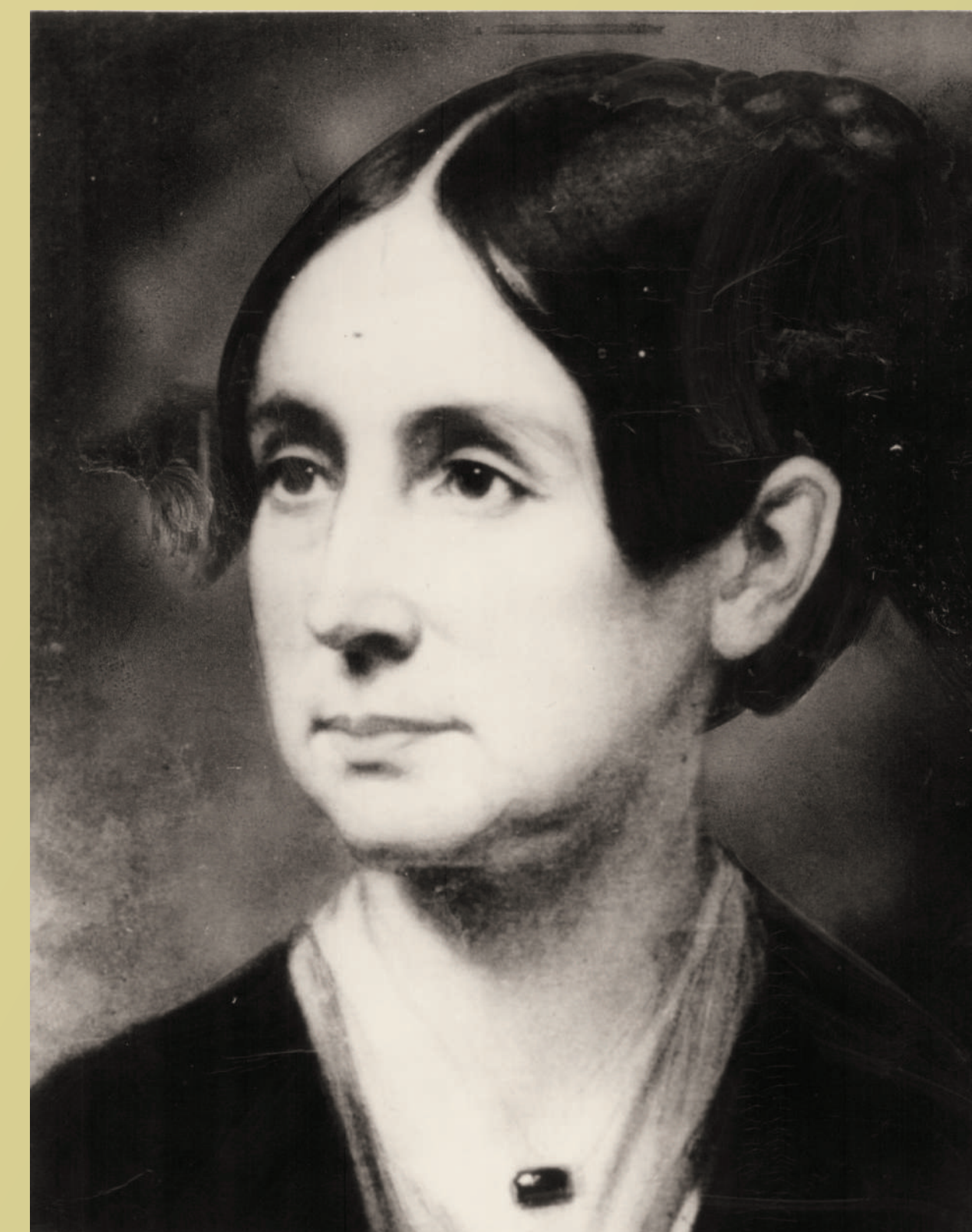
# MID-19TH CENTURY

The quest for broader human rights picked up pace. Voices were raised against corruption in government, oppressive working conditions, foul prisons, lack of educational opportunities, the shocking mistreatment of the mentally ill, and the terrible abuses of child labor.

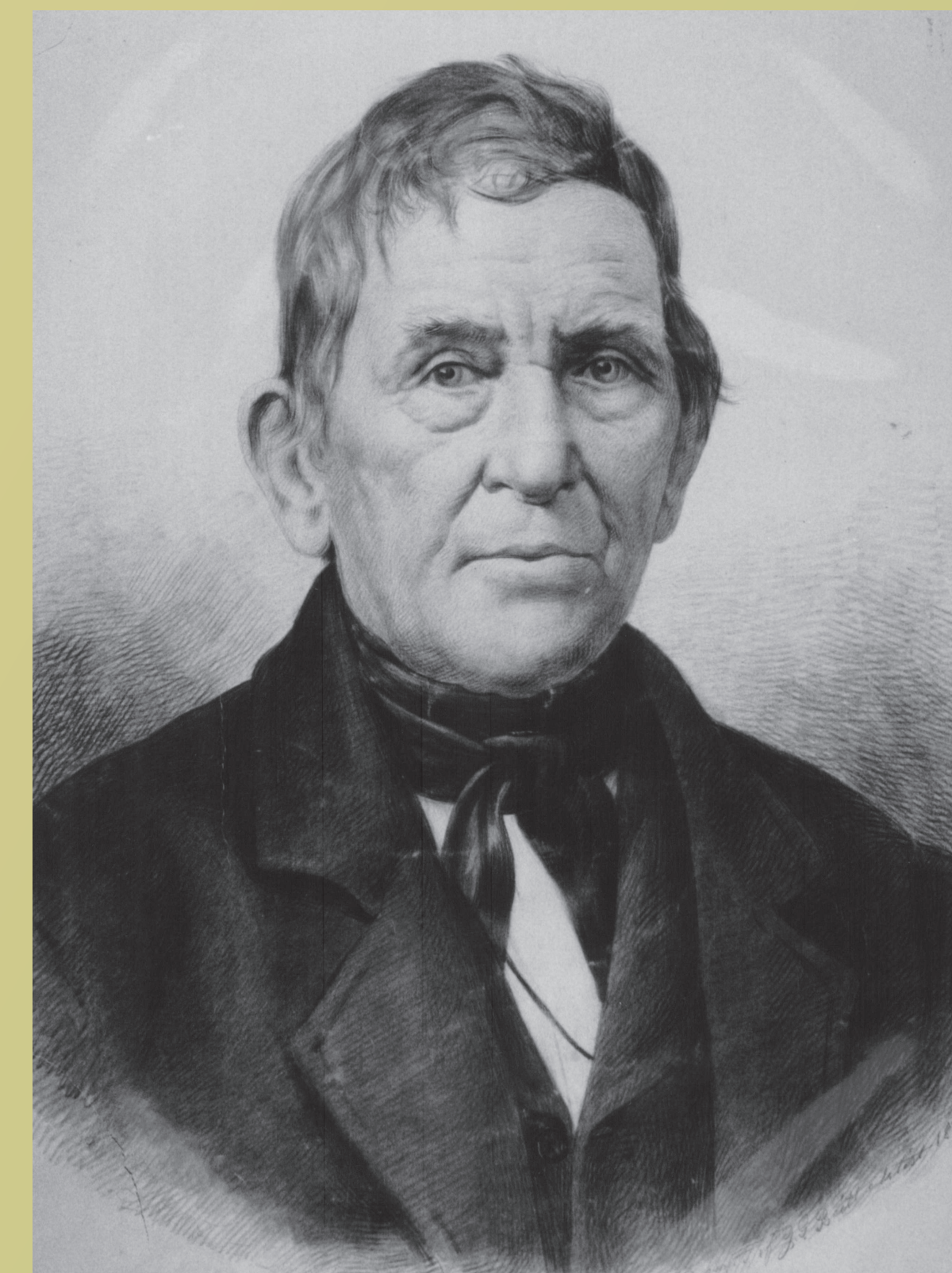
CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *NEW JERSEY: A MIRROR ON AMERICA*, AFTON PUBLISHING, FLORHAM PARK, N.J.: 1978.



Early railroads were frightening and disruptive to many people. This poster protests the Camden and Amboy's plans to lay track in Philadelphia.



Dorothea Dix was a social reformer who studied New Jersey's jails and poorhouses in the 1840s. Her report and work lobbying the state legislature led to construction of the nation's first modern mental hospital outside of Trenton.

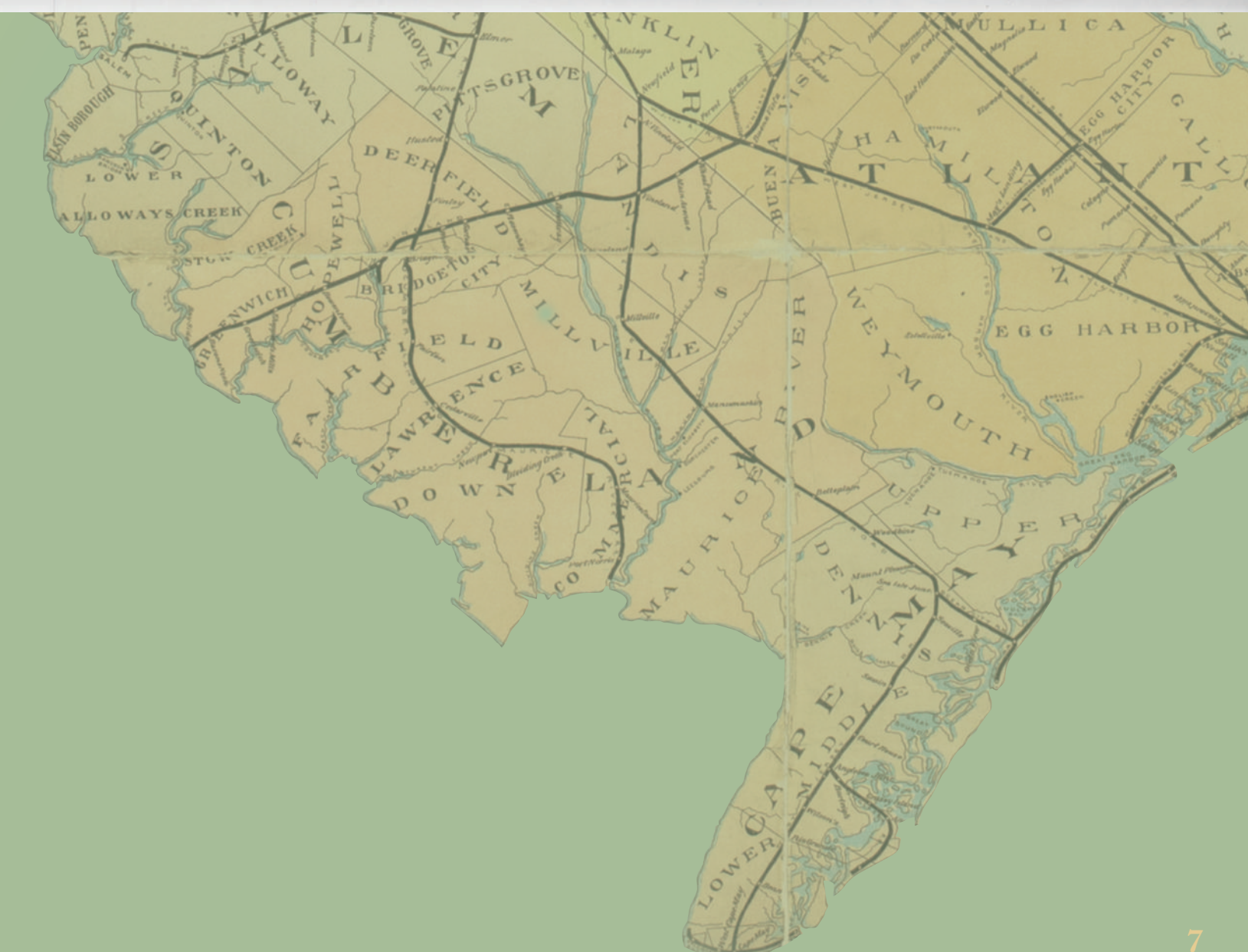


Seth Boyden arrived in Newark in 1815. He made America's first patent leather and first malleable iron. Thomas Edison considered him "one of America's greatest inventors."



View of Newark in 1847.  
Whitefield, Edwin. *View of Newark, N.J.: from the North*. 1847.  
Lithograph from the Special Collections Division, Newark Public Library.

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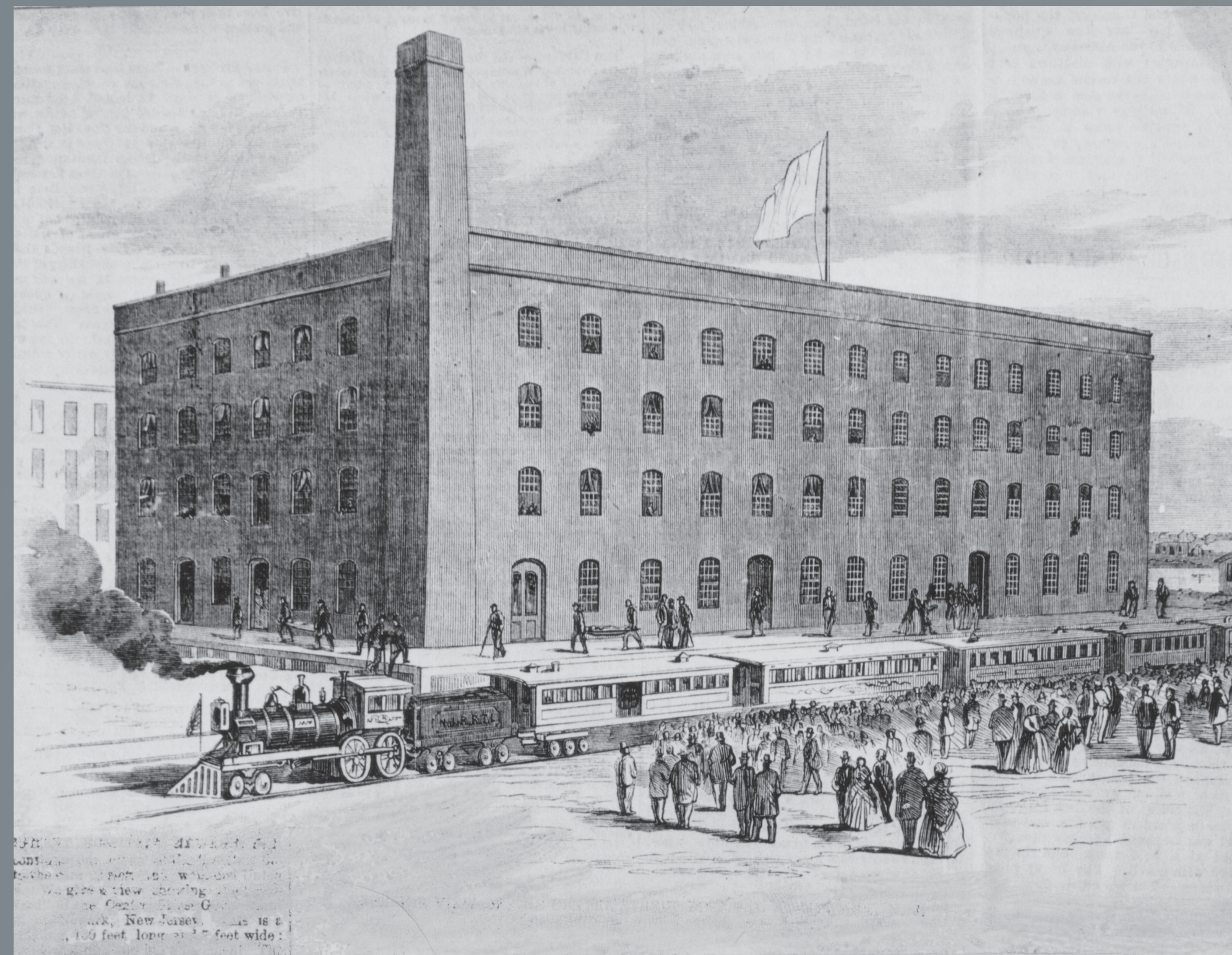




# THE CIVIL WAR



Camp Princeton, the Arlington, Virginia headquarters of the New Jersey Brigade.



View of the Centre Street Hospital at Newark. *The New-York Illustrated News*, June 21, 1862.

Wood engraving from the Special Collections Division, Newark Public Library.



Civil War recruiting poster from Newark.

The threat of Civil War distressed many New Jerseyans, and not for fear of bloodshed. Industrialists faced the loss of prime Southern markets. Cape May's hotels catered mainly to Southerners. The College of New Jersey in Princeton was in a quandary, for as many as half its students came from below the Mason-Dixon line.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *NEW JERSEY: A MIRROR ON AMERICA*, AFTON PUBLISHING, FLORHAM PARK, N.J.: 1978.



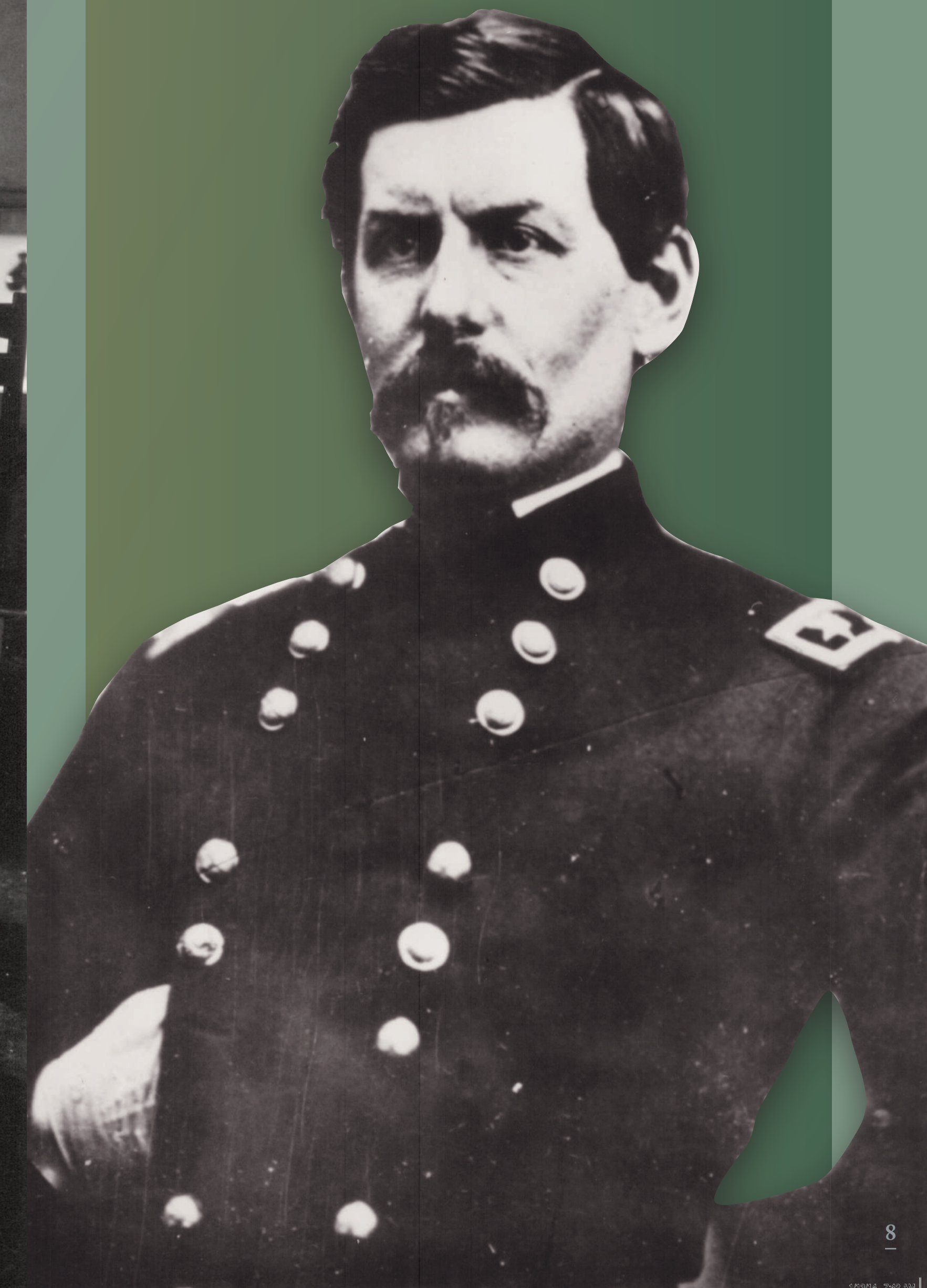
General Philip Kearny, who turned the First New Jersey Brigade into a formidable fighting force, died in September 1862. The town of Kearny is named after him.

Civil War veterans in Kearny in the early 20th century.



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George McClellan of West Orange, who commanded the Army of the Potomac early in the war, was the 1864 Democratic nominee for president. He lost to Lincoln, but was elected governor of New Jersey in 1877.



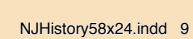


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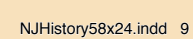
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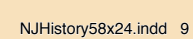
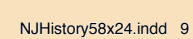
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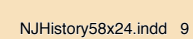
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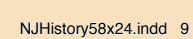
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# EARLY 20TH CENTURY

War, boom, bust:  
The twentieth century was underway.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *NEW JERSEY: A MIRROR ON AMERICA*,  
AFTON PUBLISHING, FLORHAM PARK, N.J.: 1978.

The United States entered  
World War I in 1917. Here,  
troops are shown marching  
down Washington Street in  
Newark.



Women gained the right to vote  
nationwide in 1920. This photo is from  
a gathering of the New Jersey League  
of Women Voters in 1925.



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FOR GOVERNOR



WOODROW WILSON

Woodrow Wilson was a noted  
historian and the president of  
Princeton University before being  
elected governor in 1910. After just  
two years as governor, he was elected  
President of the United States.



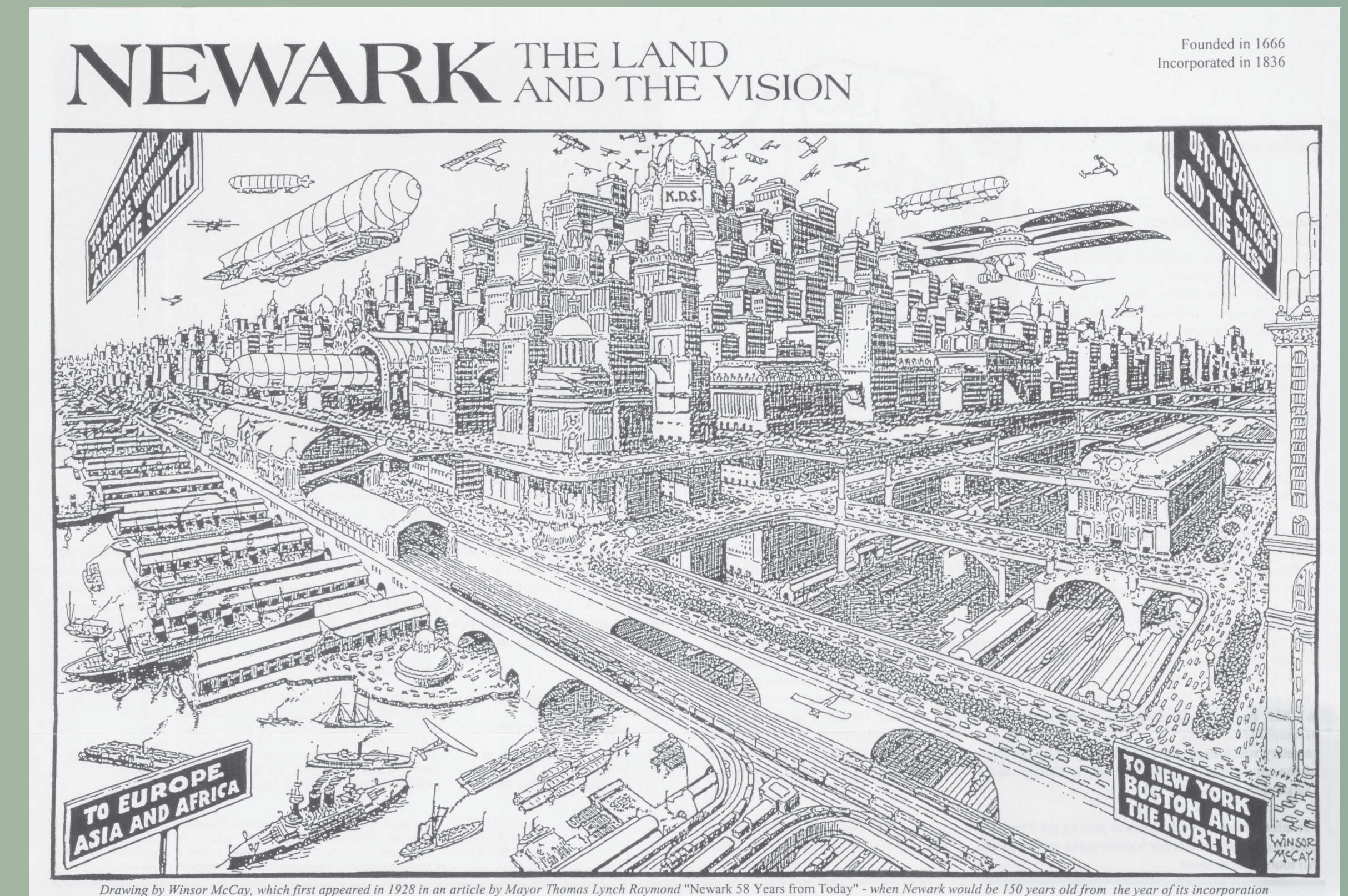
By 1912, railroads had reached  
into the lake region of  
northwestern New Jersey and  
beyond. This is a map from that  
year of the Main Line and Newark  
branches of the Erie Railroad.

A growing challenge to the supremacy of the  
railroad in the early 20th century was the  
automobile. This photo from 1913 shows the  
opening of the Lincoln Highway in New Jersey,  
now better known as Route 27.



New Jersey was the last state to ratify the  
Constitutional amendment making Prohibition  
legal. The state became a conduit for much of the  
illegal alcohol in the northeast. This photo from  
about 1925 shows illegal beer being destroyed on  
the Newark Meadows.

The early 20th century was a time of affluence  
and hopefulness in Newark. That is reflected in  
this drawing from 1928, predicting what the city  
would look like in 1986.





# DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II

The depression that began when Wall Street collapsed in October, 1929, was the Great Depression—with a capital G and a capital D....Industry collapsed, and areas heavily reliant on manufacturing, such as New Jersey, felt the blows most severely.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *NEW JERSEY: A MIRROR ON AMERICA*, AFTON PUBLISHING, FLORHAM PARK, N.J.: 1978.



The Great Depression led to widespread unemployment. Here, unemployed men in Newark are being fed.



A number of work programs were created for the unemployed. Here, jobless men toil on a road crew in Bergen County.

New Jersey became a genuine “arsenal of democracy” (President Roosevelt’s term). This state could provide radios, automobiles, ships, ammunition, uniforms, chemicals, airplane engines, machines, food, gasoline, copper, and hundreds of other things.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *NEW JERSEY: A MIRROR ON AMERICA*, AFTON PUBLISHING, FLORHAM PARK, N.J.: 1978.

The economic pain brought by the Great Depression led to social unrest. This scene took place at a Communist protest in Newark in 1931.



With many men away at war and a need for workers, women entered the labor force in large numbers. Here, a group of women are shown punching out after their shift at the Newark shipyards in 1943.

The United States entered World War II in December 1941. Army-Air Force men marched on the Atlantic City boardwalk a few months later.



Many Americans started “victory gardens” during the war like this one in Essex County, in an attempt to grow some of their own food.



The war also called for sacrifice on the homefront. Many goods were rationed during the war, and ration stamps like these were in common use.



Spurred by low-interest mortgages guaranteed by the government, millions of ex-servicemen across the nation rushed to buy the rose-covered cottages that long had been the stuff only of songwriters' melodies. The G.I. home loans spawned the phenomenon called "suburbia" that would drain the cities.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *NEW JERSEY: A MIRROR ON AMERICA*, AFTON PUBLISHING, FLORHAM PARK, N.J.: 1978.

# MID-CENTURY BOOM

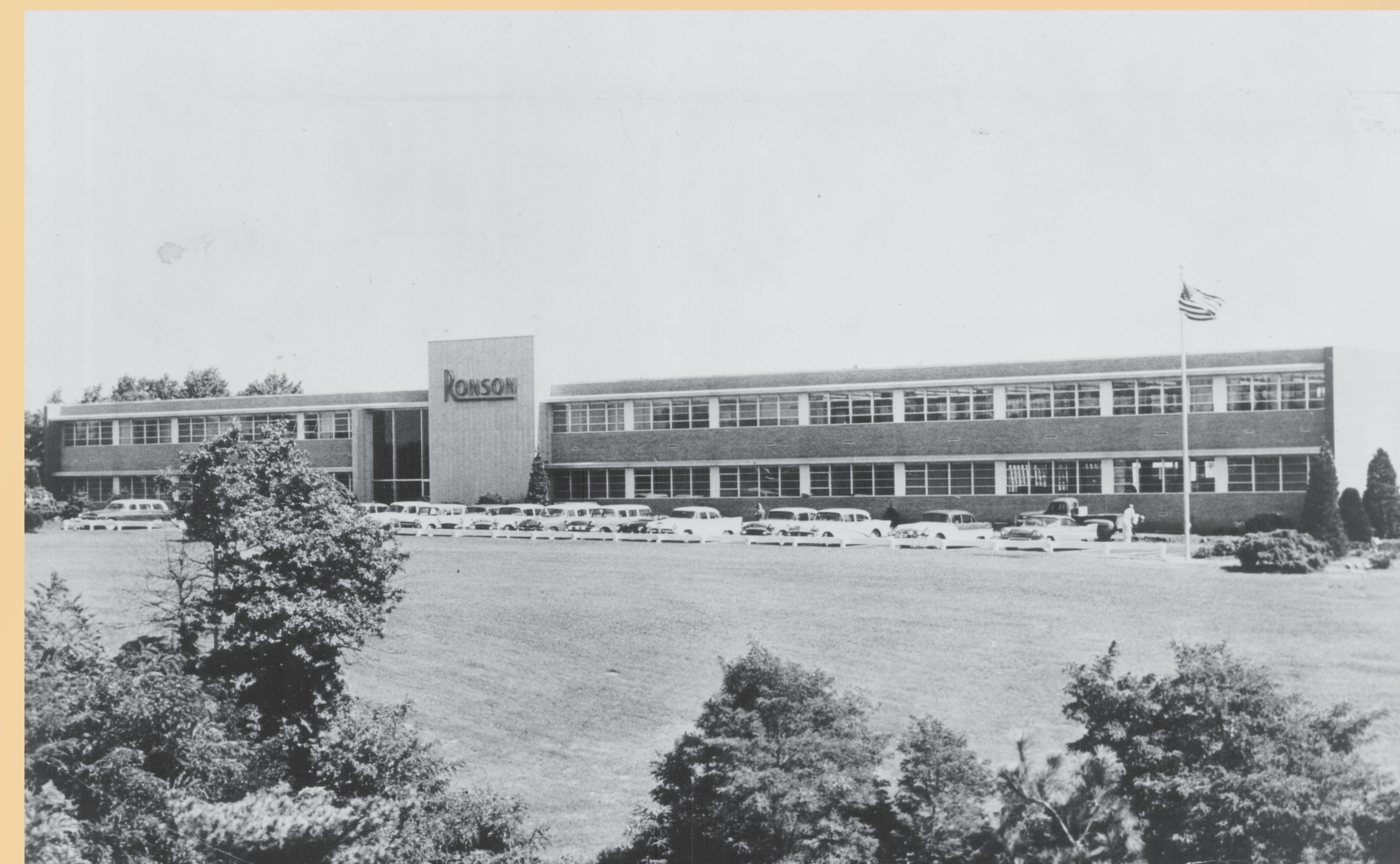


The photo on the left was taken in 1947, when Paramus was known as the "celery town." The Garden State Plaza shopping mall, right, opened just 10 years later, part of Paramus's transformation into a major shopping destination.



The 1950s saw construction of both the Garden State Parkway and the New Jersey Turnpike, the beginning of a boom in highway building in New Jersey. This photo shows the Parkway under construction in Woodbridge in 1951.

In the decades after World War II, people moved out of the state's cities and into the suburbs. Many jobs followed. The Ronson corporation, founded in Newark in 1886, opened this facility in Woodbridge in 1958.



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The G.I. Bill provided money for World War II veterans to go to college. The state's colleges and universities responded with a major building boom. Here are physics department buildings on Rutgers' Piscataway campus in 1964.



Home construction in the suburbs exploded after World War II to house returning veterans and their families. This scene is from Willingboro in 1965.



# LATE 20TH CENTURY

Problems extended outward from the cities.... People in such concentration created or compounded problems merely by being so close together in such a small area.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN T. *NEW JERSEY: A MIRROR ON AMERICA*, AFTON PUBLISHING, FLORHAM PARK, N.J.: 1978.



The Arab oil embargo in the 1970s led to long lines at gas stations around the country, including New Jersey, as shown in this image from 1979.



Newark and Plainfield were among the cities around the country struck by civil unrest in the 1960s. The events of July 1967 in Newark are considered a major turning point in the city's history. Here, police officers guard a store struck by looters.



In the wake of civil unrest, Gov. Richard Hughes appointed a committee of community leaders to probe the issues that led to the violence. The committee issued a "Report for Action" in 1968.



Pope John Paul II visited New Jersey in 1995. Here he is greeted at Newark Airport by Gov. Christie Whitman. President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton are in the background.



Casino gambling in Atlantic City was approved by state voters in 1976, as an attempt to revitalize a city that had been in decline for decades. While initially successful, gambling in Atlantic City had begun to face competition from neighboring states by the time this photo was taken in 2007.

Casale, Joseph. Backside view of the Boardwalk, Atlantic City. 2007. Color photograph.

The tremendous growth of New Jersey after World War II brought about the need for new revenue. After a series of bond measures, the state instituted a sales tax in 1966 and an income tax 10 years later. These taxes, along with some of the highest property taxes in the nation, led to protests like this one in Trenton in 1990.



The growing importance of the Meadowlands as a sports venue was underscored when the World Cup took place there in 1994. Here are stamps issued to commemorate the soccer event.

WORLD CUP SOCCER STAMPS  
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE  
EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ 07073





# 21ST CENTURY

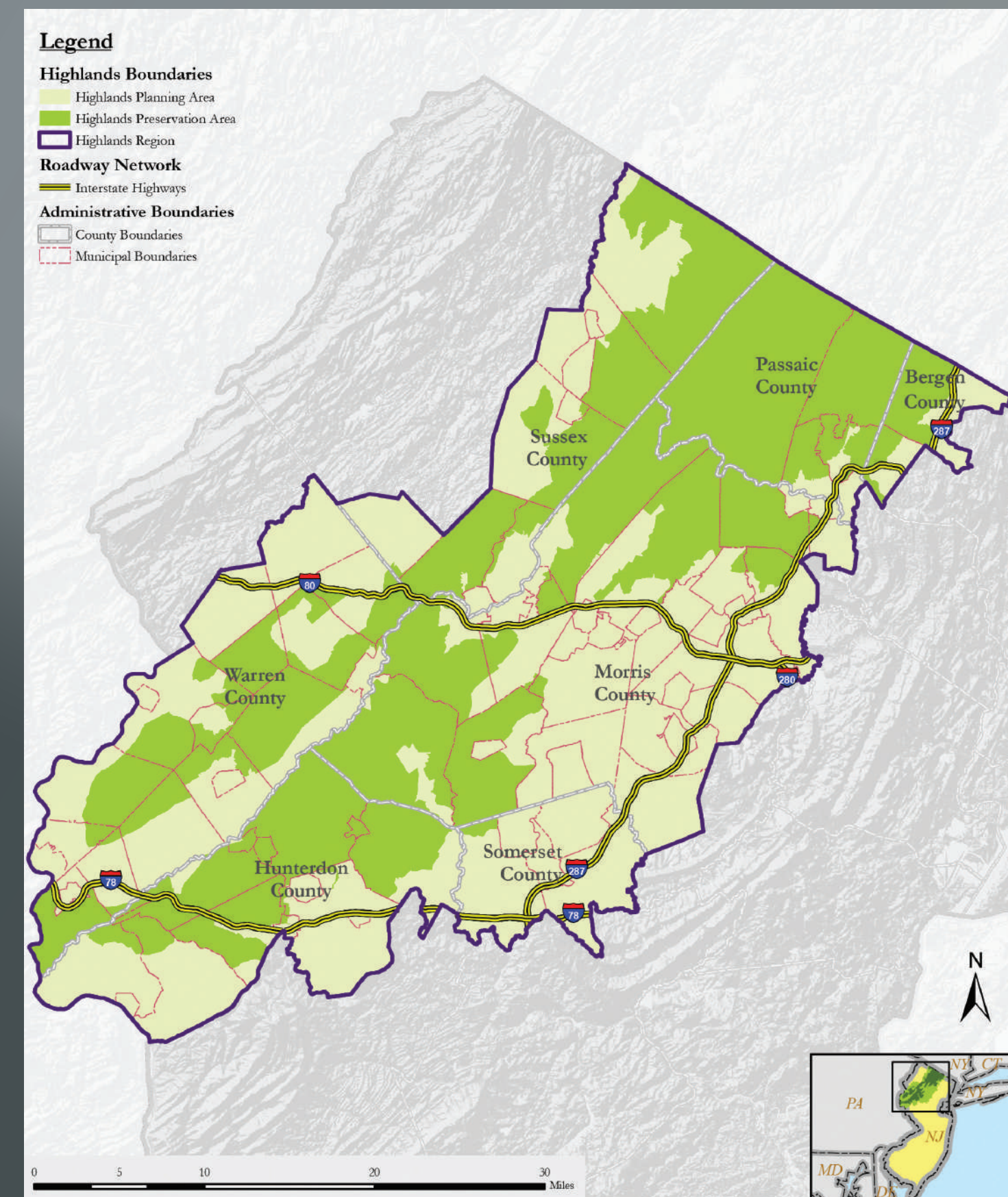


More than 600 New Jersey residents died in the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. This photo shows one of the towers smoking after being struck by an airplane earlier that morning.



The 21st century has seen the construction of three professional sports facilities. From left to right: MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford houses the National Football League's Jets and Giants and is the site of the Super Bowl in 2014; the New Jersey Devils of the National Hockey League play at Newark's Prudential Center; and Major League Soccer's Red Bulls play at Red Bull Arena in Harrison.

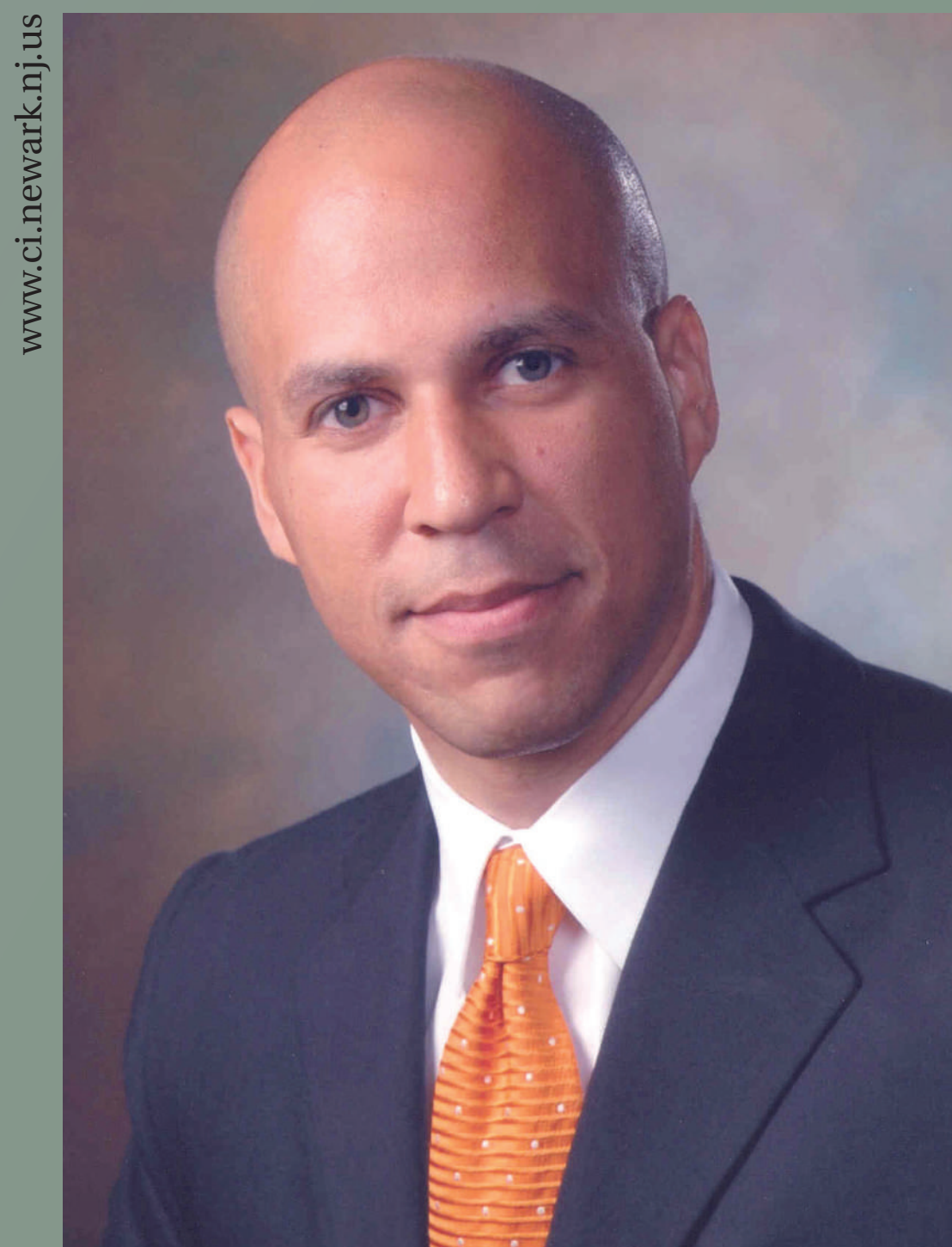
Superstorm Sandy struck New Jersey like a hammer in October 2012. Sandy killed at least 37 people in the state, and caused economic losses of up to \$30 billion. More than 2 million New Jersey households lost power, and 346,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. For many, the iconic image of the storm is this, a roller coaster from the Seaside Heights boardwalk resting in the ocean after being toppled by the storm.



The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act was passed in 2004. Meant to preserve open space and protect drinking water, the act is extremely controversial because it limits development on a huge swath (1,343 square miles) of New Jersey.



New Jersey resonated in popular culture during the first decade of the 21st century, mostly through television shows like *The Sopranos*, *The Real Housewives of New Jersey*, and *Jersey Shore*.



Cory Booker, a Democrat, served as mayor of Newark from 2006 to 2013. His earnestness and charisma attracted money and attention to the state's largest city. In 2013, he became only the fourth African American elected to the United States Senate.



Chris Christie, a Republican first elected governor in 2009, is a forceful and shrewd politician who is widely popular in a state with many more registered Democrats than Republicans. His ability to work across the aisle has political pundits discussing a possible presidential run.

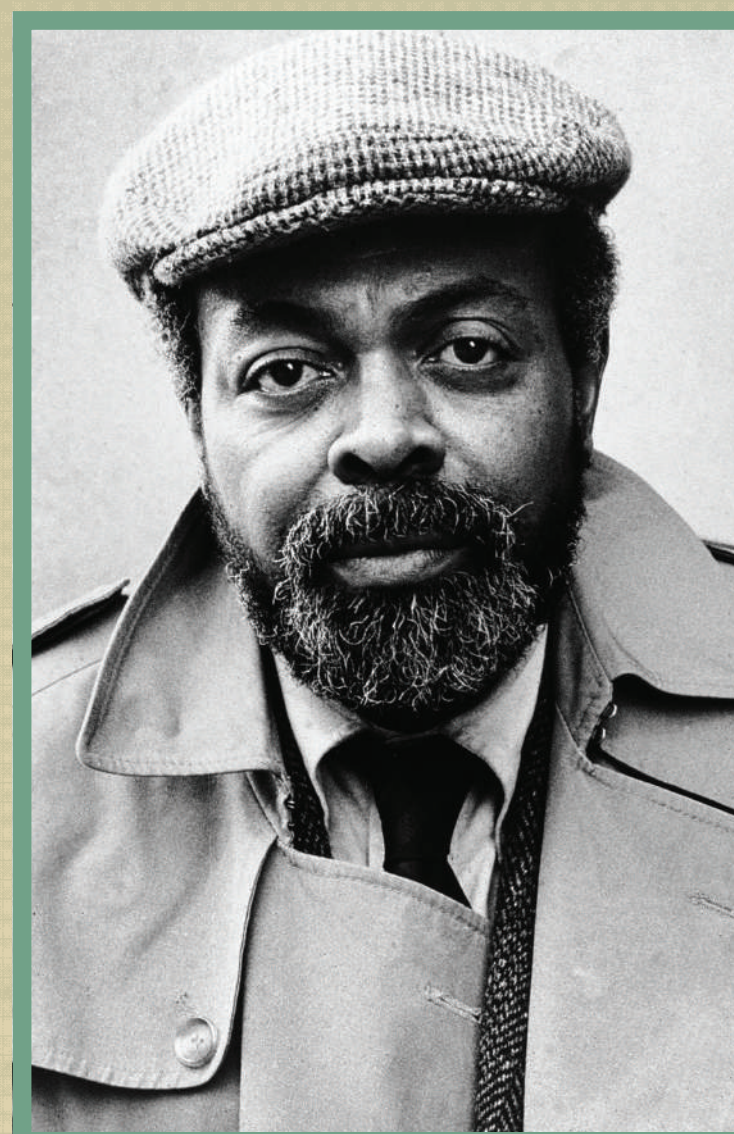
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# NEWARK WRITERS

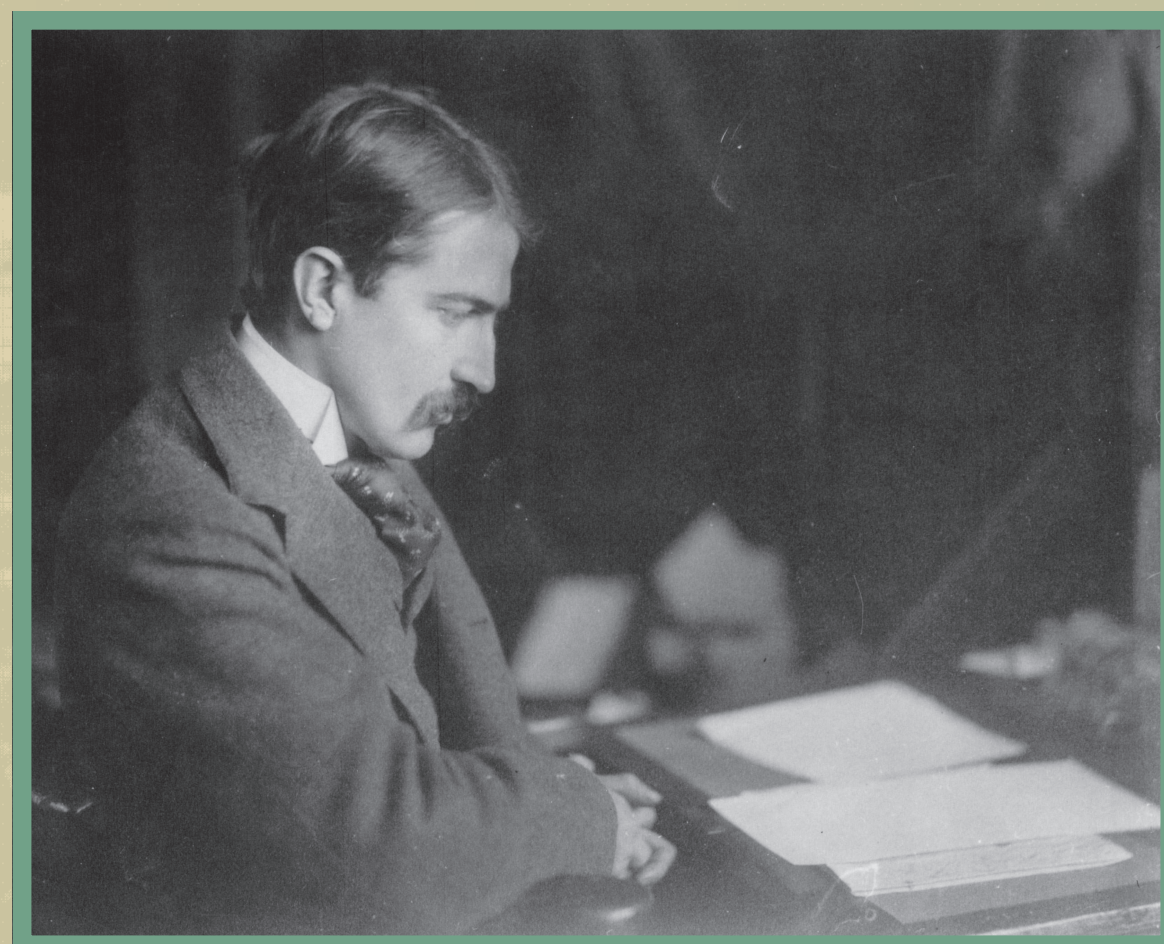
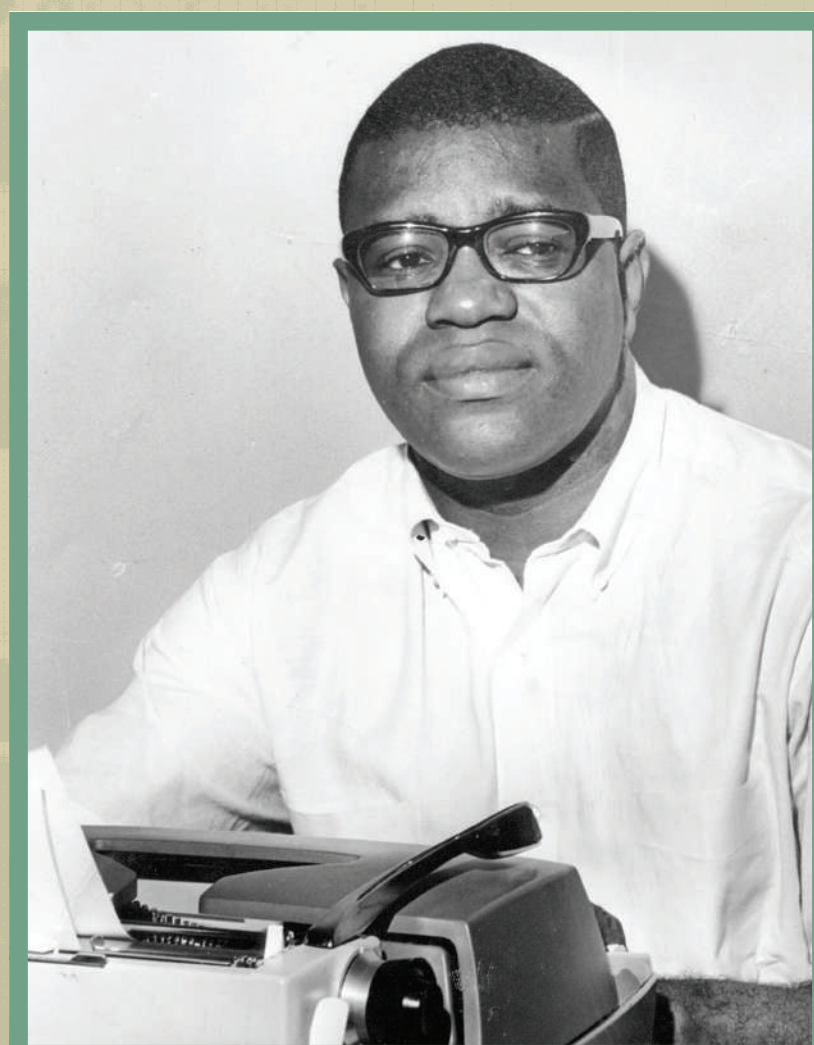
This selected list of writers represents a variety of genres and is not meant to be comprehensive. These and many others have contributed to the rich literary and cultural heritage of Newark.

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**AMIRI BARAKA**, 1934–2014, was born Everett LeRoi Jones in Newark. A writer of poetry, drama, fiction, and essays known for his confrontational style, his work aims to awaken audiences to the concerns of African Americans.

**CLAUDE BROWN**, 1937–2002, lived in Newark. Known best for his first book, *Manchild in the Promised Land*, Brown wrote about the lives of young African Americans in the inner city.



*Badge of Courage*, Crane was a pivotal figure in modern American Naturalism.

**STEPHEN CRANE**, 1871–1900, was born and raised in Newark. Most famous for writing the novel *The Red Badge of Courage*, Crane was a pivotal figure in modern American Naturalism.



**ROBERT CURVIN** is a visiting scholar at Rutgers University and former executive at the Ford Foundation. Curvin was a leader of the Newark chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality during the

1967 riots, and has written about the political experiences of African Americans in the city. His book *Inside Newark: Decline, Rebellion, and the Search for Transformation* will be released in August 2014.

**WARREN GROVER** grew up in Newark, and is a founder of the Newark History Society. His nonfiction book, *Nazis in Newark*, was published in 2003.



**MAX ARTHUR HERMAN** is a sociology professor and the president of the Jewish Museum of New Jersey in Newark. He is the author of *Fighting in the Streets: Ethnic Succession and Urban Unrest in Twentieth-Century America* (2005) and *Summer of Rage: An Oral History of the 1967 Newark and Detroit Riots* (2013).



**MARK DI IUNNO**, a columnist for *The Star-Ledger* and an adjunct professor of journalism at Rutgers-Newark, is the author of three books about New Jersey history and culture. His first novel, *The*

*Last Newspaperman*, was published in 2012.

**BARBARA J. KUKLA** was the editor of the “Newark This Week” section of *The Star-Ledger* for many years. Her books such as *Swing City: Newark Nightlife, 1925–1950* and *America’s Music: Jazz in Newark* highlight the rich history of the city.



**BENILDE LITTLE** was born in Newark in 1958. A former reporter for *The Star-Ledger*, *People*, and *Essence*, Little has written several novels about the lives of middle class African Americans.

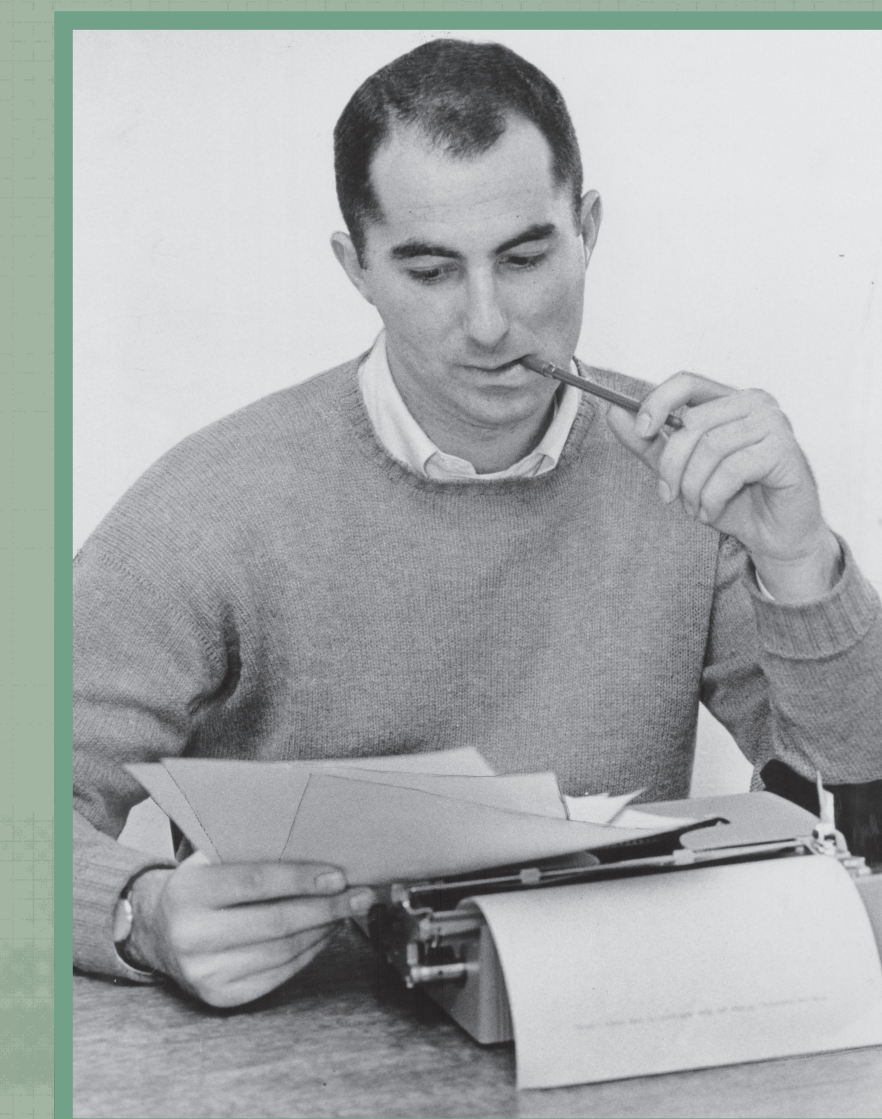
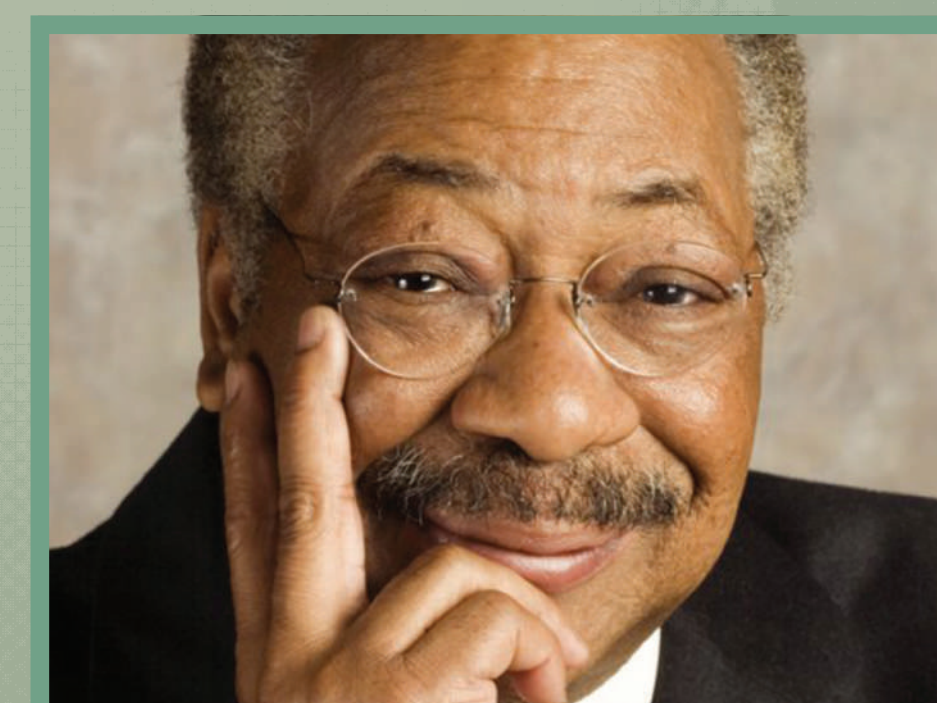


**ANASA MAAT** writes novels set in Newark that feature African American characters. She is the owner of Nutany Publishing, which published a recent memoir by former Newark mayor Sharpe James.

**THOMAS A. MCCABE** is a visiting history professor at Rutgers-Newark. His book *Miracle on High Street*, a history of St. Benedict’s Preparatory School in Newark, was published in 2011. He is currently working on a book about soccer in New Jersey in the early 20th century.

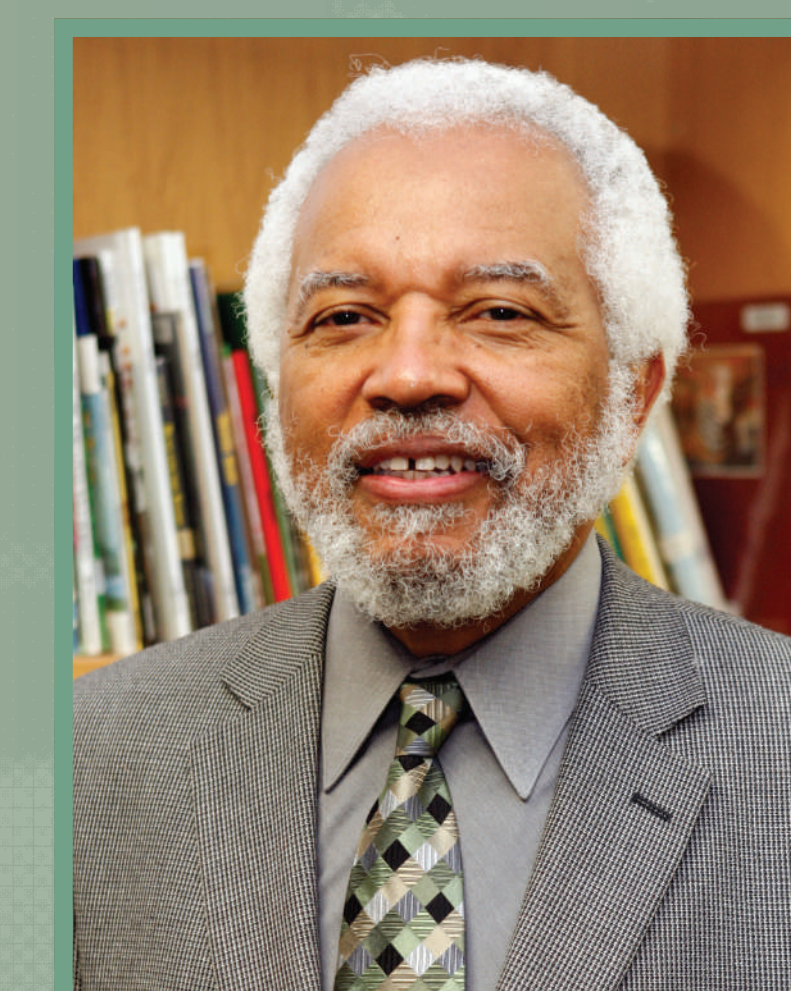


**CLEMENT ALEXANDER PRICE** is the Board of Governors Distinguished Professor of History and Director of the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience at Rutgers—Newark. He is the editor of the landmark *Freedom Not Far Distant: a Documentary History of Afro-Americans in New Jersey*.



**PHILIP ROTH**, born in Newark in 1933, has written novels chronicling the lives of Jews in New Jersey during the 20th century.

**VALERIE WILSON WESLEY** was born in 1947 and lives in Montclair. She writes books for teens and adults. Wesley is well known for her Tamara Hayle detective novels, set in Newark.



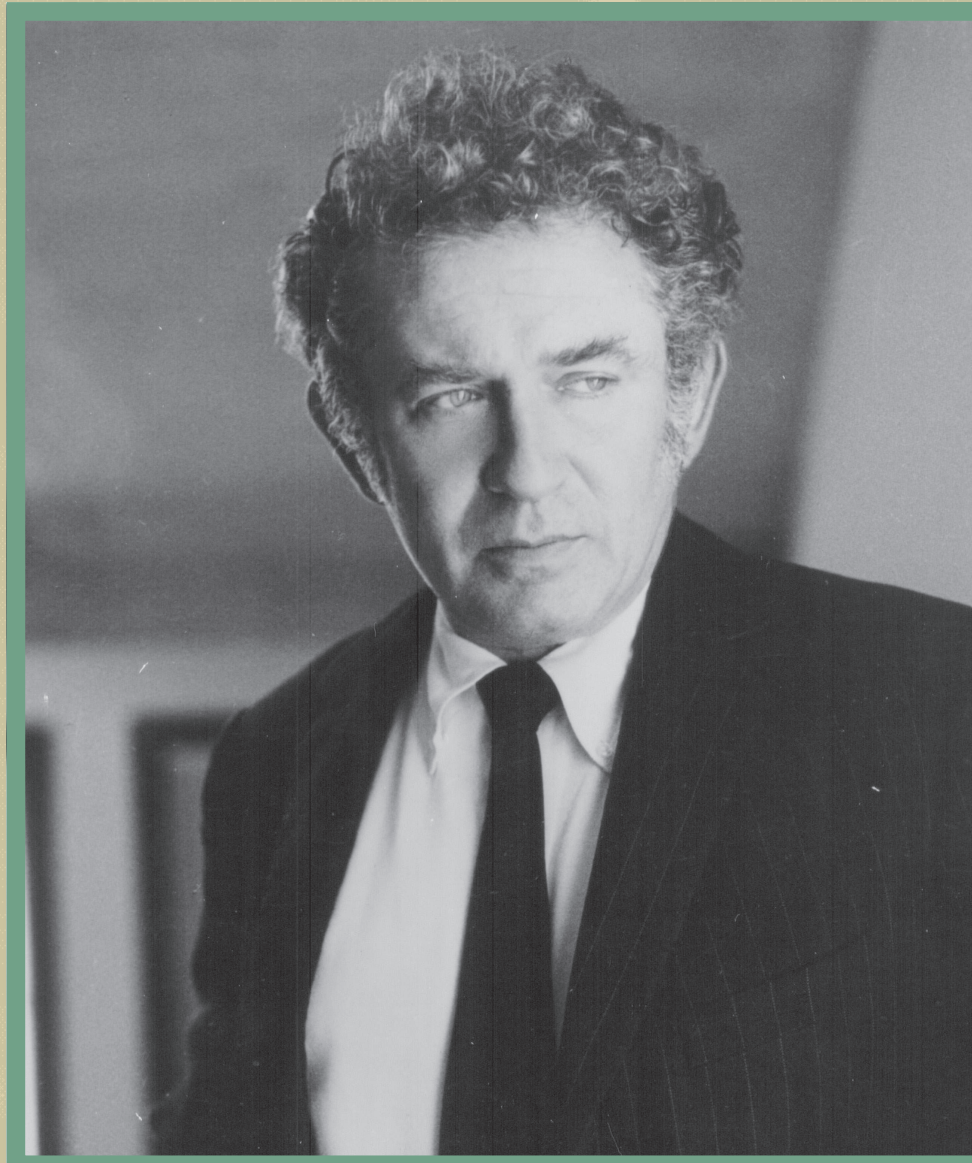
**JUNIUS WILLIAMS** is an attorney and community activist in Newark. He recently completed a book with Tom Hayden, *Unfinished Agenda: Urban Politics in the Era of Black Power*.



# NEW JERSEY WRITERS

This selected list of writers represents a variety of genres and is not meant to be comprehensive. These and many others have contributed to the rich literary and cultural heritage of New Jersey

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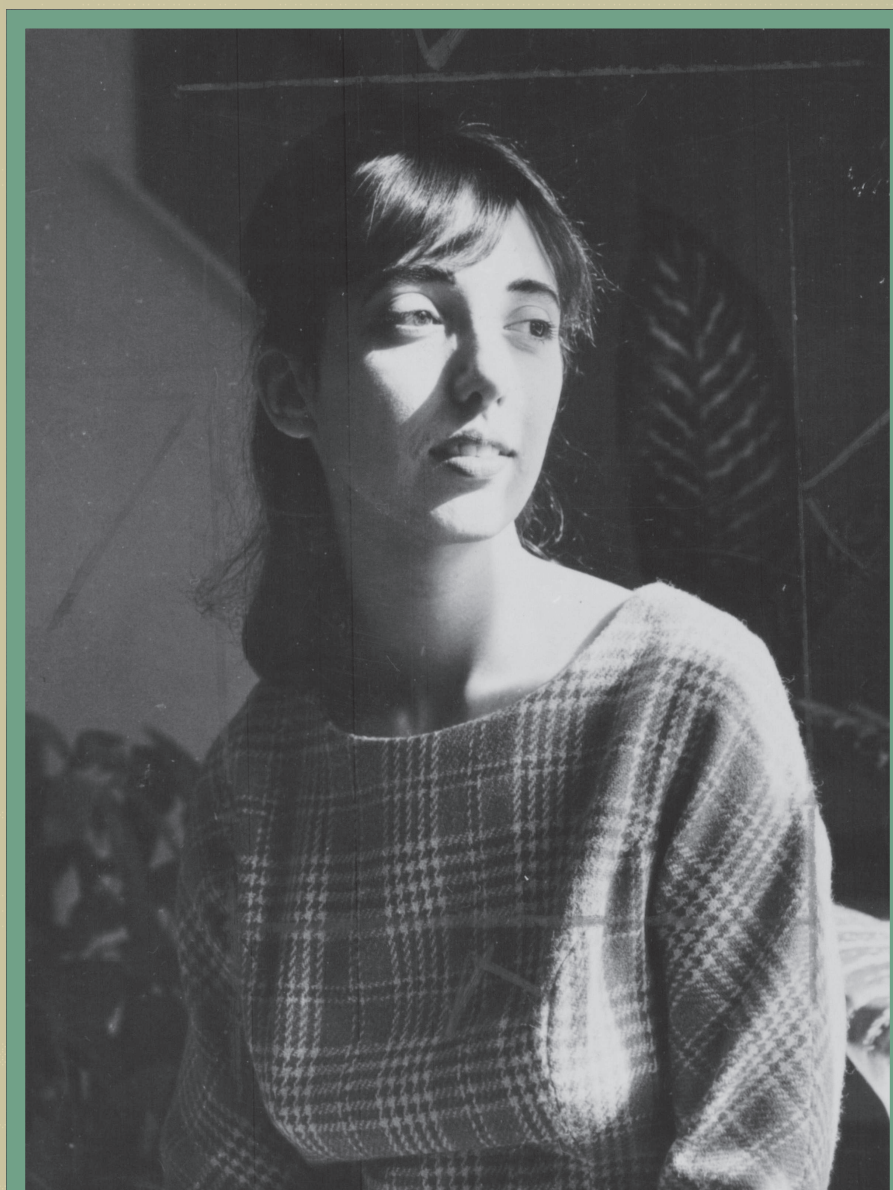


**NORMAN MAILER**, 1923–2007, a Pulitzer-prize winning novelist, was born in Long Branch.

**JUNOT DIAZ**, born in the Dominican Republic in 1968, grew up in Parlin and graduated from Rutgers University. He is a Pulitzer-prize winning novelist known for chronicling the lives of immigrants.



Nina Subin



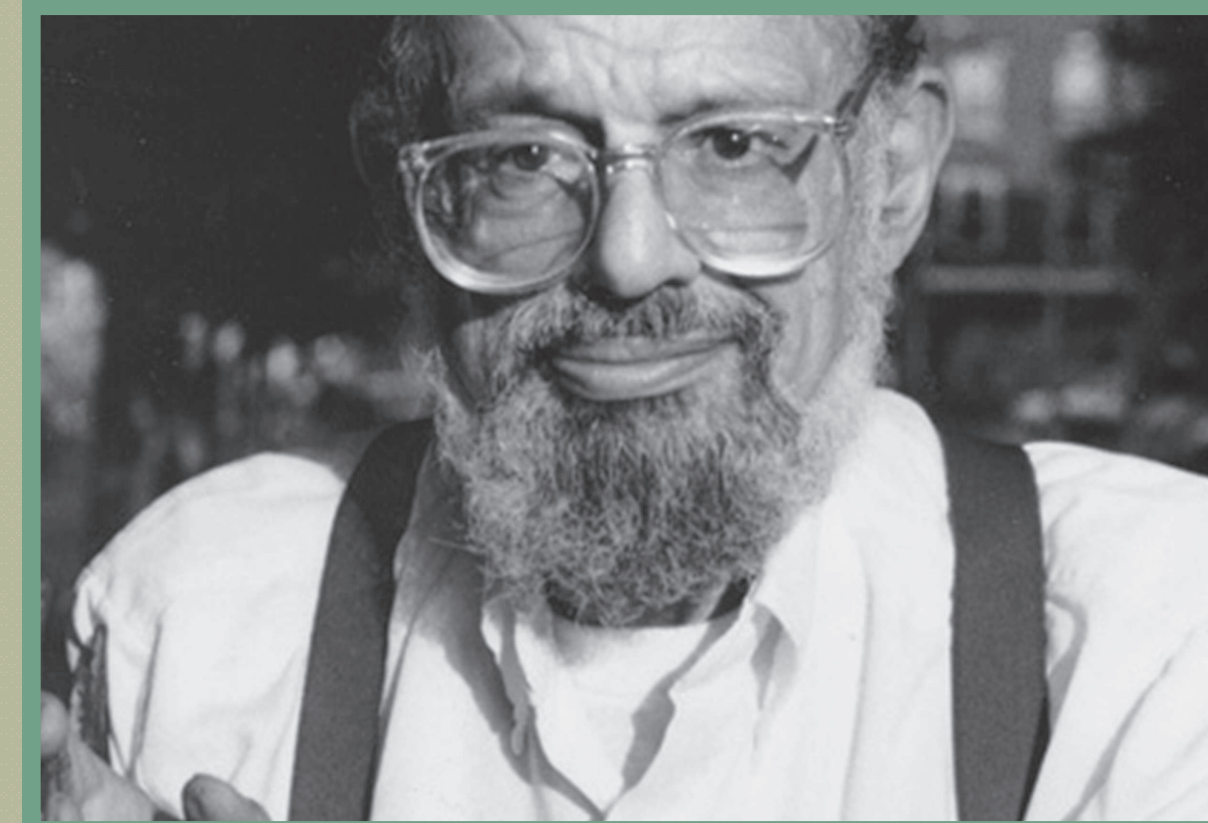
**JOYCE CAROL OATES**, born in 1938, has taught at Princeton University since 1978. She is a prolific writer of novels, short stories, criticism, plays, and poetry.



evanovich.com

**JANET EVANOVICH** was born in South River in 1943. She is the author of a series of best-selling detective novels set in Trenton featuring heroine Stephanie Plum.

**ALLEN GINSBERG**, 1926–1997, was born in Newark and raised in Paterson. Ginsberg was a distinguished poet, known for being part of the Beat movement in the 1950s.

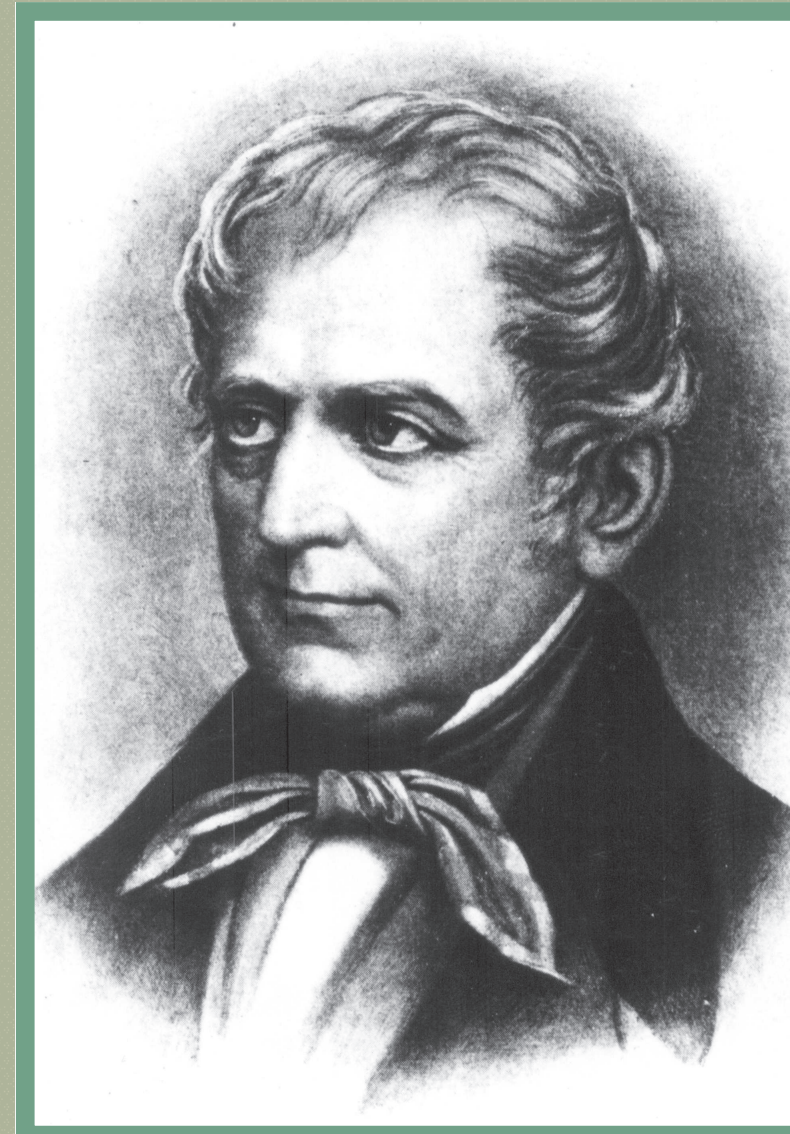


poetryfoundation.org



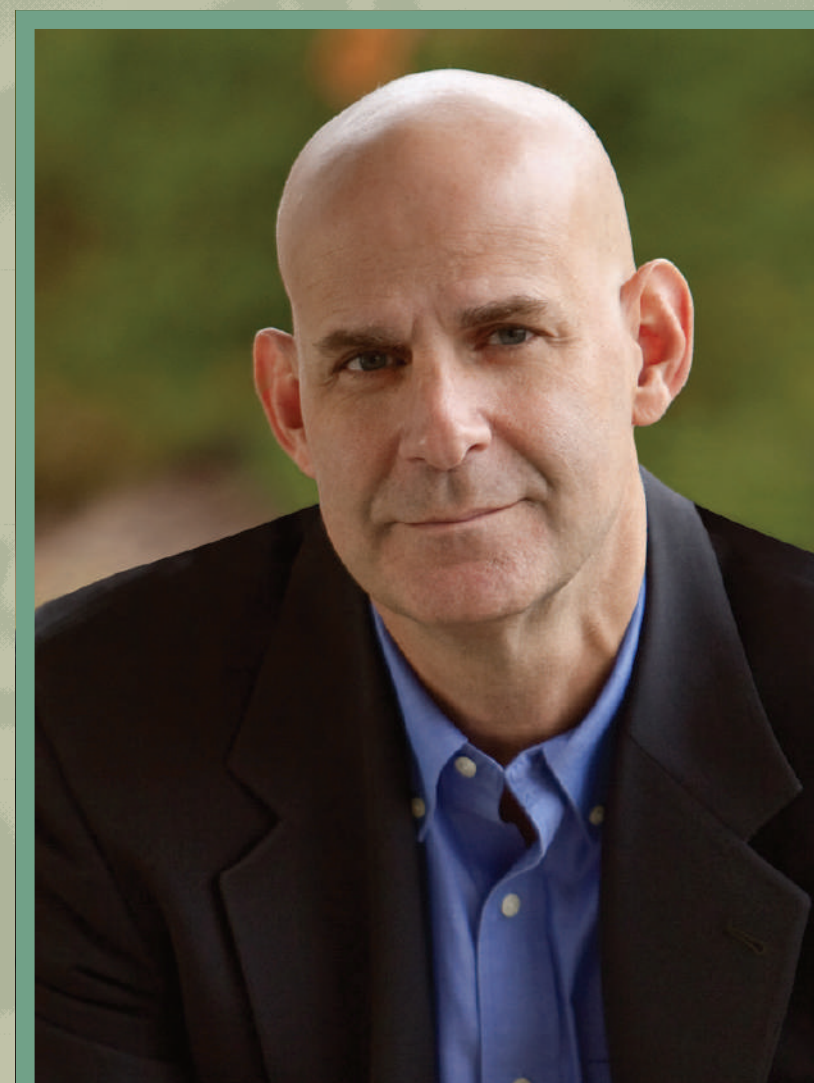
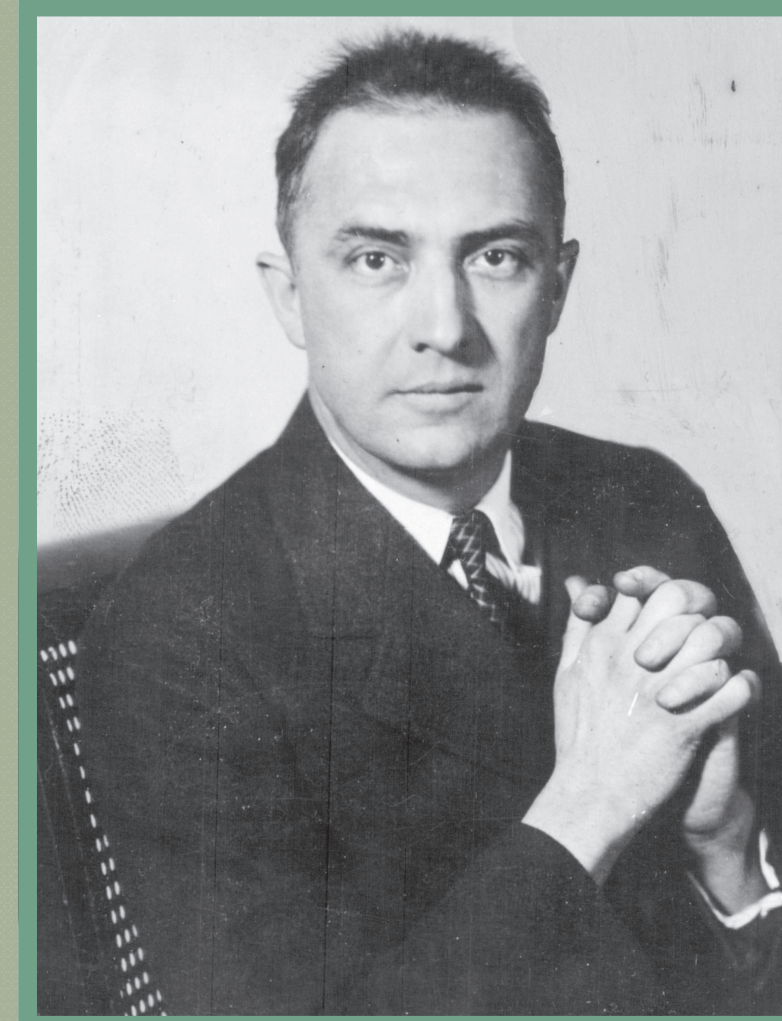
lhrinc.org

**JUDY BLUME**, born in Elizabeth in 1938, is an author of popular and sometimes controversial books for young people.



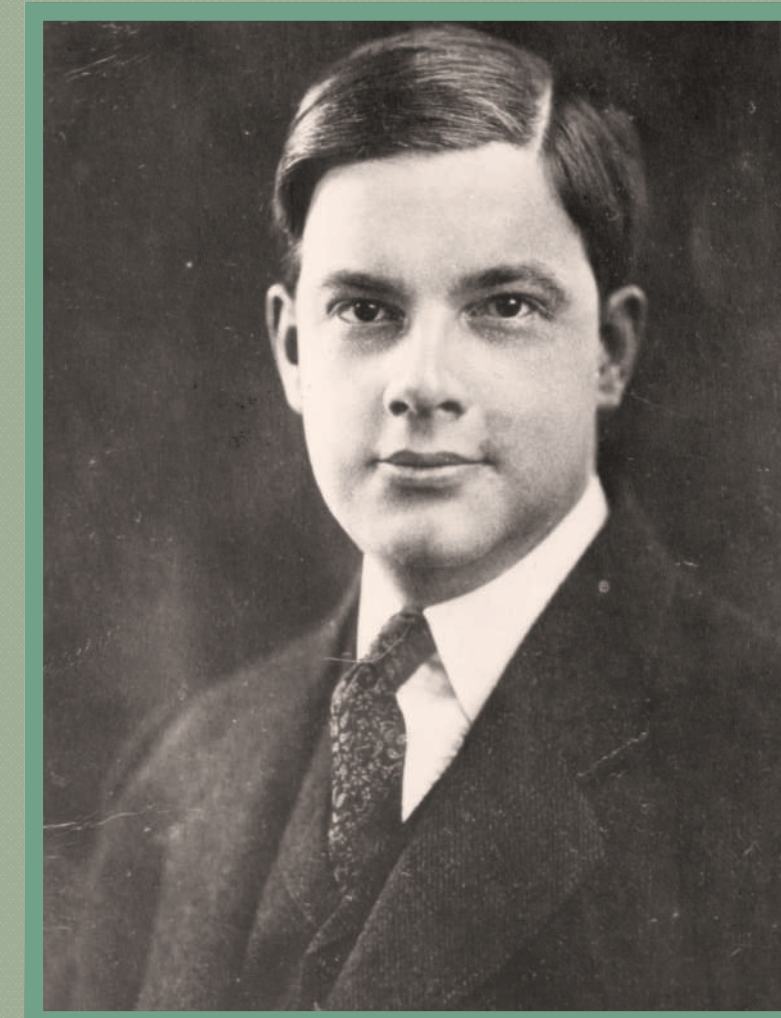
**JAMES FENIMORE COOPER**, 1789–1851, was born in Burlington. He was a popular writer of historical romances in the early 19th century, best known for the novel *Last of the Mohicans*.

**WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS**, 1883–1963, lived most of his life in Rutherford. He established himself as an innovative American poet during the 40 years he was also a practicing physician.



harlancoben.com

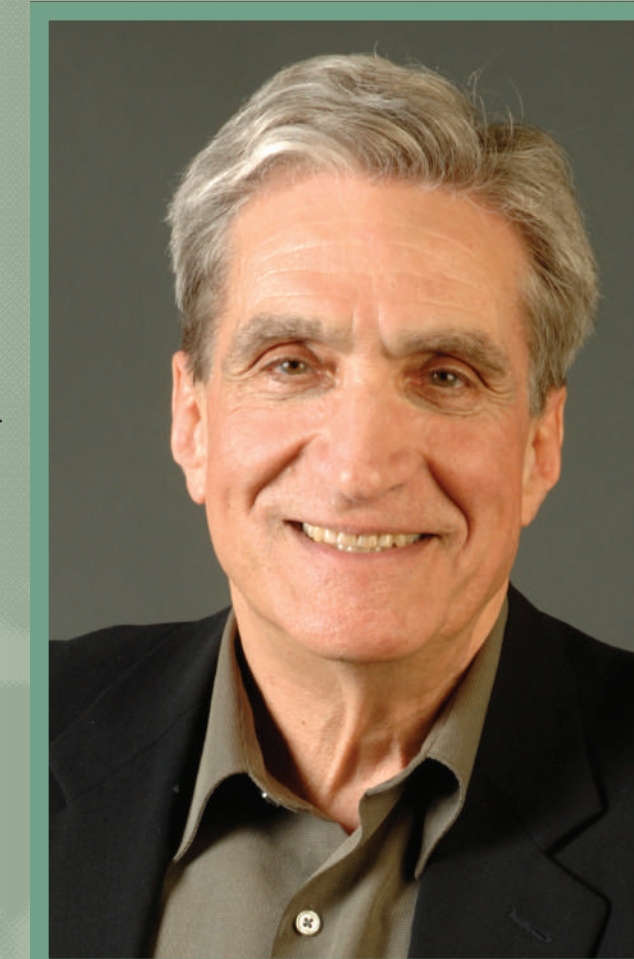
**HARLAN COBEN** was born in Newark in 1962, grew up in Livingston, and now lives in Ridgewood. He is a best-selling author of mystery novels.



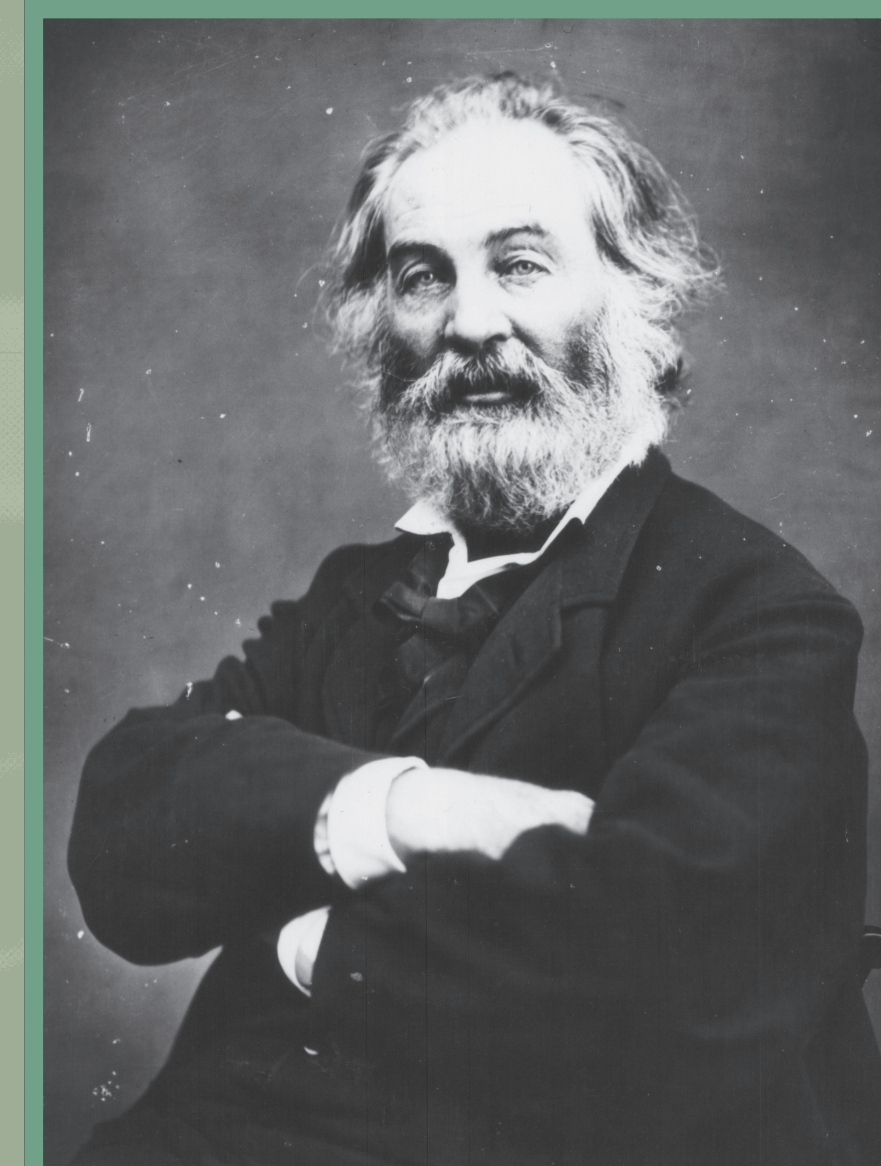
**JOYCE KILMER**, 1886–1918, was born in New Brunswick. He is remembered today for his poem “Trees,” which begins, “I think that I shall never see / A poem as lovely as a tree.” Kilmer was killed in action in

France during World War I.

**ROBERT PINSKY** was born in Long Branch in 1940. Pinsky is a poet and critic who served as poet laureate of the United States from 1997–2000.



robertpinsky.com

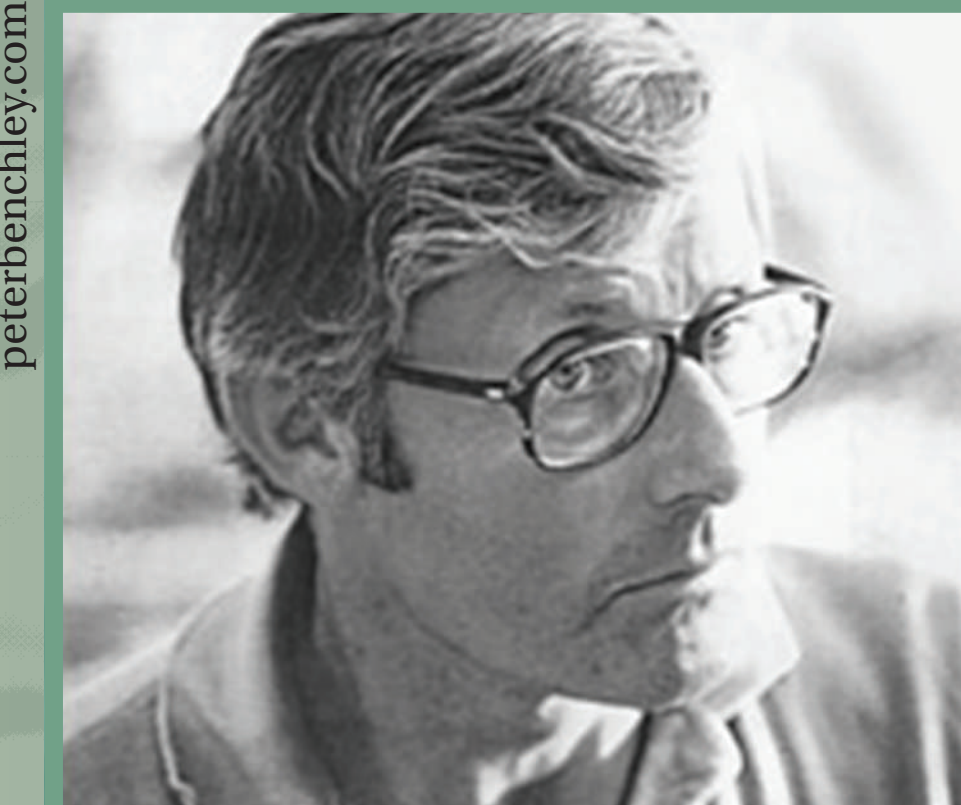


**WALT WHITMAN**, 1819–1892, spent the last 19 years of his life in Camden. He was one of the most influential American poets of the 19th century.



**TONI MORRISON**, born in 1931, has taught at Princeton University since 1989. A major American novelist, Morrison became the first black woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993.

**MARY HIGGINS CLARK** was born in 1929 and resides in Bergen County. She is a New York Times bestselling author of over 30 novels of suspense as well as collections of short stories, a historical novel, a memoir, and two children’s books.



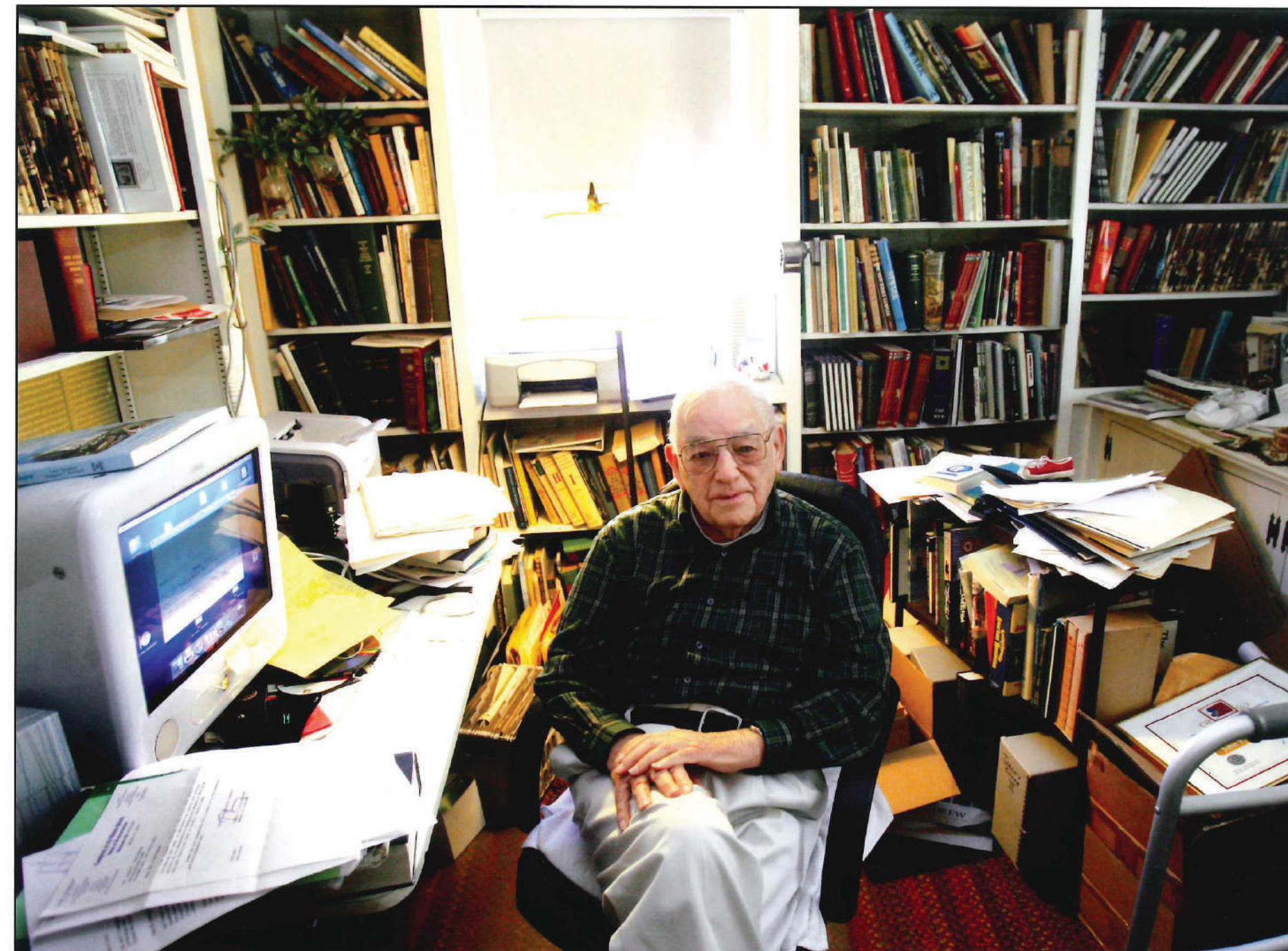
peterbenchley.com

**PETER BENCHLEY**, 1940–2006, moved to New Jersey in 1969 and died in Princeton. He is best known as the author of the novel “Jaws,” which

became a blockbuster movie directed by Steven Spielberg.



# JOHN T. CUNNINGHAM



Historian John Cunningham at his home in Florham Park in 2010. He died yesterday at 96. 2010 STAR-LEDGER FILE PHOTO

## Ode to a writer, and a friend, who gave Jerseyans our history

By Mark Di Ionno  
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

John T. Cunningham described himself as a "popular" historian. That meant he wrote history for the masses. Not dry, academic history. But history that put the story first. Yes, John Cunningham was a historian. More than that, he was a storyteller. And no one came close to telling New Jersey's story better or more often than Cunningham, who died yesterday afternoon at Morristown Medical Center at age 96.

"This is New Jersey," was the big book. He published it in 1953, and it has been reprinted six times in six decades. It laid the foundation for nearly every New Jersey history book written since, and if there is a library in the state that doesn't have it on the shelf, then the place has no right to call itself a library.

He embarked on his history discovery with Rutgers professor Richard McCormick, the father of the outgoing Rutgers president.

"He was the academic historian, and I was the guy who wrote the easy-to-read books," Cunningham once said.

"Far more than other historians, he made New Jersey's complicated history accessible to a cross-section of teachers, students, history buffs and scholars," said Rutgers-Newark professor Clement Price. "He was one of the civic giants of New Jersey public life."

Cunningham and McCormick created a new interest in state history and built the written foundation to support it.

Cunningham was most proud of the fourth-grade history curriculum he wrote decades

ago.

"Of course, what any historian wants to do is educate," he said. "An awful lot of kids learned about their home state with those lessons."

Cunningham wrote for casual readers and kids, but there was always accuracy in the history, and left in the details.

His New Jersey was the most important state in the union. The place where the American Revolution was won and, through the birth of the Labor Movement, where the American worker got to share in the bounties of those freedoms.

He wrote of Edison and the invention of comfort, and Einstein who contemplated other worlds. He wrote about his hometown of Florham Park and Morristown, his high school alma mater. From the industry of Paterson to the ecology of the Great Swamp, John Cunningham learned it, then told everybody.

Almost 60 years since his first book -- about railroading in New Jersey -- Cunningham wrote nearly one a year deep into the 1990s.

His "Newark" book, written in 1962, was rewritten and republished in 2002 by the New Jersey Historical Society with great fanfare.

At the launch party, the always humble Mr. Cunningham spent most of his talk praising the late Newark historian Charles Cummings, a co-contributor.

His last book, "The Uncertain Revolution: Washington & the Continental Army at Morristown," came out in 2007. He was working on a memoir when he died.

"It's not an autobiography," he said the last time I visited him. "Historians don't write

about themselves. They write about lives in the context of the times. An autobiography is about me, me, me. A memoir, on the other hand, is about a life within times."

Cunningham said this sitting at his old desktop computer, in a chair with the padding worn down to paper thin. His home office decor was clutter on top of clutter. Full bookshelves, with the books topped by papers and files and notes.

The narrative was speaking always in Cunningham head. It was a writer's mind. The ideas, the words, banged around like atoms in a reactor, and he harnessed their power on whatever paper was close enough to whatever pen.

He lived a writer's life, beginning as a reporter at The Newark Evening News. It was there he learned the state, and learned he could delight readers by bringing them along on his journey.

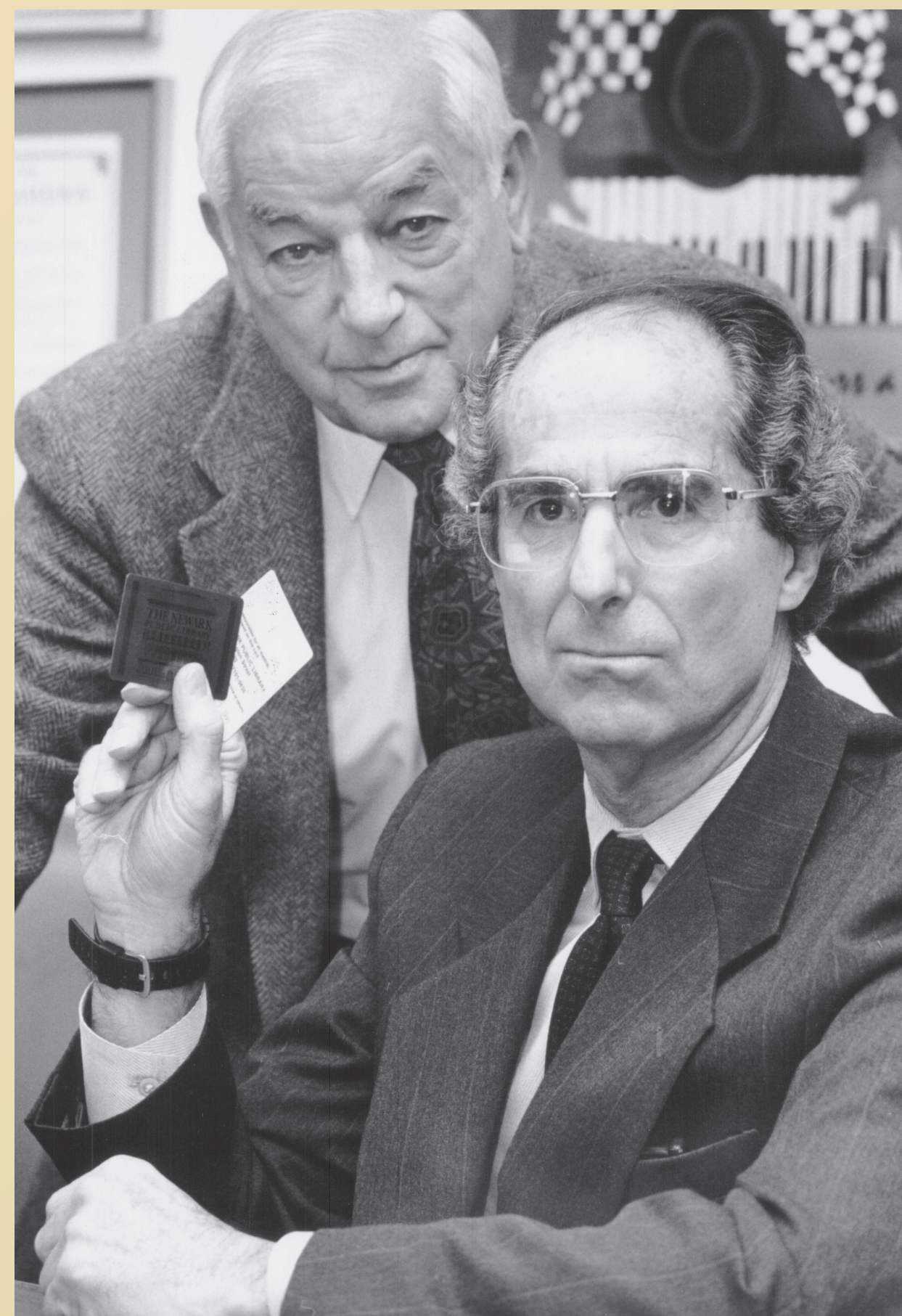
I was one who tagged along. He was a friend and mentor.

A couple of years ago, the Advocates of New Jersey History honored Cunningham with their lifetime achievement award. He wasn't able to attend.

"My legs don't work as well as they used to. But my fingers are doing just fine."

He asked me to accept the award on his behalf. In front of a crowd of about 300 people at the War Memorial in Trenton, I started by saying, "Without John Cunningham, none of us would be here today, because it was John Cunningham who gave us New Jersey history."

I had to stop then, and compose myself. Just like now.

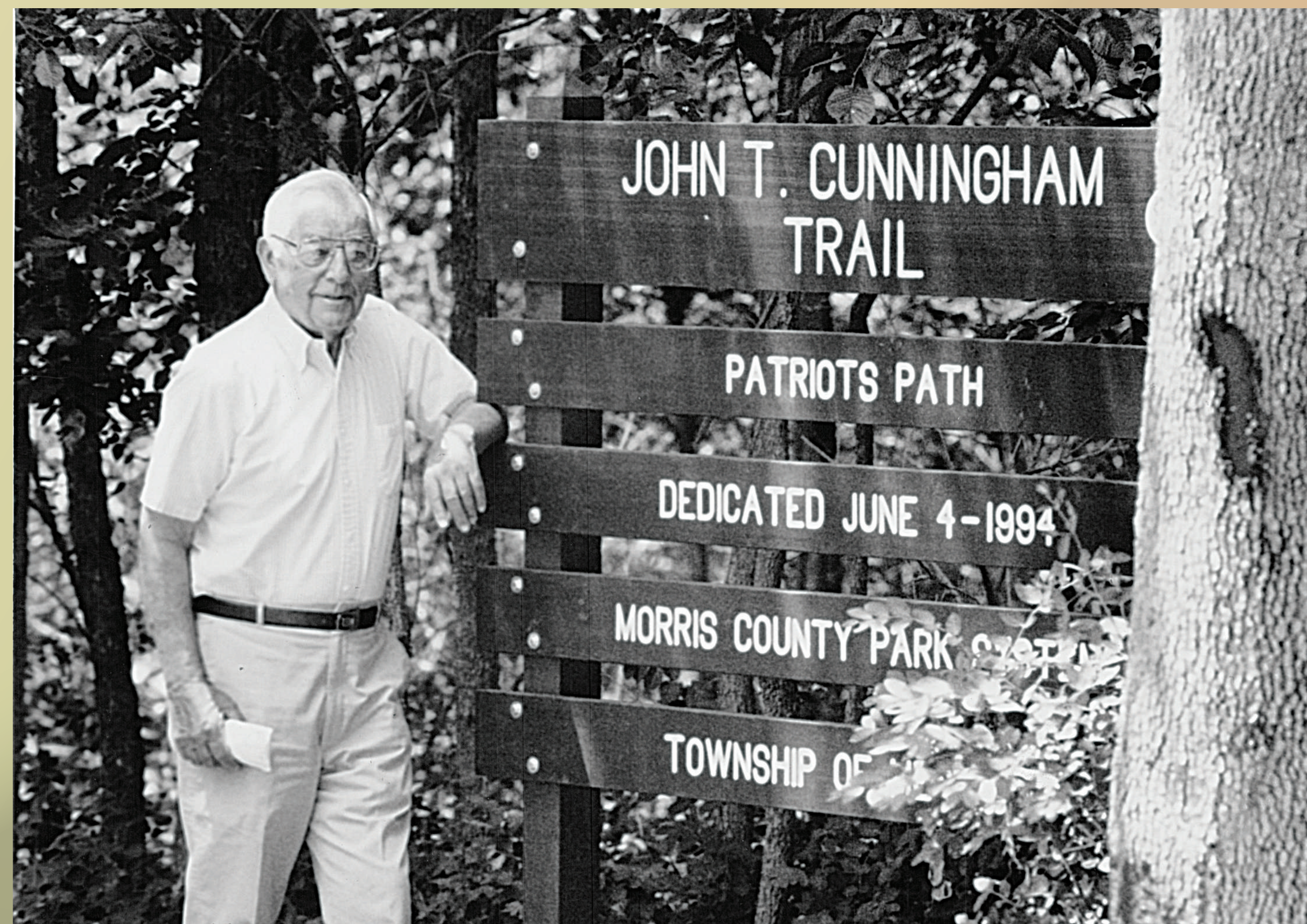


Cunningham, left, in 1991 with Newark-born novelist Philip Roth.

This tribute by Mark Di Ionno ran in *The Star-Ledger* the day after Cunningham's death in 2012.



Cunningham, right, in 2005 with Newark Public Library Assistant Director and City Historian, Charles F. Cummings at the Newark Public Library.



Cunningham in 1994 at the start of a trail named for him in Morris County's Lewis Morris Park.

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